

F  
74  
W38F54

HISTORY OF THE  
TOWN OF WELLESLEY



Class F74  
Book W38 F54  
Copyright N<sup>o</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

COPYRIGHT DEPOSIT.





HISTORY OF THE  
TOWN OF WELLESLEY







Received of  
 Thomas B. & R.  
 the sum of

In Arabian chief magistrate of the means at  
 White & Xenanth ancient Indians do  
 hereby testify that the Lord above said is the  
 Lord of John Magus & Sara Magus  
 according to Indian Law & Custom  
 Attest by his marks his marks  
 maban Xenanth



HISTORY OF THE  
TOWN OF WELLESLEY  
MASSACHUSETTS

BY THE LATE  
HON. JOSEPH E. FISKE

*Edited and enlarged by Ellen Ware Fiske*



THE PILGRIM PRESS  
BOSTON CHICAGO

11.33.54

COPYRIGHT 1917  
By ELLEN W. FISKE

21

THE PILGRIM PRESS  
BOSTON

✓

SEP -6 1917

©CLA 476043

no. 1

## INTRODUCTION

It is not the purpose of this book to record what has already been written up by other students of the town's affairs, and so it is best to refer to those who are interested to the following excellent histories which deal more or less with this locality:

A comprehensive history of Dedham up to 1827 written by Erastus Worthington contains in the first sixty pages many things of interest to this part of the Dedham township.

Rev. E. H. Chandler's excellent history of the Wellesley Church renders anything else on the subject a work of absolute supererogation.

George Kuhn Clarke of Needham, our local historian and compiler since the death of Charles C. Greenwood of Needham, published a book of Epitaphs in 1897 and in 1912 followed with a most extended history of Needham. Mr. Clarke's epitaphs contain excellent and interesting descriptions of early families whose last resting places are found in the cemeteries of North Natick, Wellesley, Needham and Newton Lower Falls.

Therefore the editor of this work feels that any similar descriptions of families and localities would only be doing over again work that has already been done. So she offers the slight history left by her father, with some amplifications on her part.

This book was undertaken at the request of the Wellesley Club, by whose sanction and encouragement it has been carried on.



## CONTENTS

	PAGE
Introduction.....	v
List of Illustrations.....	ix
Dates of Interest to the Town.....	xi
Settlement and Original Grants.....	3
Separation from Needham and Origin of the Name.....	12
Roads and Bridges.....	18
Newton Lower Falls—Factories.....	23
Railroads and Post Offices.....	26
Churches.....	28
Public Schools.....	31
Private Schools.....	36
Wellesley College.....	37
Wellesley in the Wars.....	38
Old Families.....	50
The Town Farm.....	52
Taverns—Old Houses.....	56
Land Owners.....	62
Items from Early Town Records.....	64
Early Societies.....	67
Genealogies of Some of the Older Residents of the Town.....	68
Social Life at Wellesley.....	77
Wellesley, 1881-1906.....	82
Account of Division of the Town.....	84





## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Deed from John and Sarah Magus.....	<i>Frontispiece</i>
	OPPOSITE PAGE
Old Grantville Station.....	26
Rockland Street Bridge.....	26
Third Meeting House.....	28
The First Meeting House, Wellesley.....	28
The Old Unitarian Church.....	30
The Old Congregational Church, Wellesley Hills.....	30
Wellesley Square before 1875.....	38
Wellesley College.....	38
Wellesley Hills Square, Looking East.....	56
Wellesley Hills Square, Looking West.....	56
Maugus Hill from Forest Street.....	64
View from Maugus Hill.....	64
The Hunnewell Gardens.....	72



## DATES OF INTEREST TO THE TOWN

- 1636 Dedham settled.
- 1659 Natick Dividend.
- 1668 Dewin House built.
- 1699 Hundreds grants.
- 1701 Mill at Lower Falls.
- 1711 Needham separated from Dedham—33rd town in State to  
be incorporated.
- 1728 First school house.
- 1774 West Parish set off.
- 1775 Three companies sent to Lexington.
- 1778 West Parish incorporated.
- 1781 Natick set off.
- 1797 West Needham church settled a pastor.
- 1797 Needham Leg set off to Natick.
- 1834 Railroad to West Needham.
- 1843 Cornwallis Day observed.
- 1846 Newton Lower Falls Branch Railroad opened.
- 1847 North Needham Parish—Moses Grant gives bell to Church—  
name becomes Grantville.
- 1858 Fells School House built (then Pine Plains).
- 1862 West Needham name changed to Wellesley.
- 1874 Shaw School built.  
New North School Building erected.
- 1881 Wellesley incorporated as a town.  
Catholic Church dedicated.
- 1882 Woodlawn Cemetery incorporated.
- 1883 It was voted to have town water.
- 1884 Woodlawn Avenue lengthened.  
Elm Street accepted by the town.  
Florence Avenue accepted by the town.  
Unitarian Church built.
- 1885 First report of Water Board.
- 1886 Waban Street accepted.  
Front Street and Linden Street connected.  
Freshet carried away foot bridge at Newton Lower Falls.
- 1887 Concrete sidewalks built.  
Watering cart used.  
May 21, Mr. Hunnewell deeded Town Hall and Library to the  
town.  
Fire Department organized.
- 1888 Kingsbury Street accepted.  
Park Commissioners appointed.
- 1889 Board of Health established as separate from Board of Select-  
men.  
Wellesley Club organized.

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

- 1890 Wellesley Hills Woman's Club organized.
- 1891 Chestnut Street and Cliff Road accepted.  
Park Street accepted.  
Croton Street accepted.
- 1892 Abbott Street accepted.  
Everett Street accepted.  
Electric street lighting introduced.  
Maugus Club organized.  
Fiske School built.
- 1893 Franchise granted to Natick and Cochituate Street Railway.  
Old Hunnewell school house sold.  
Superintendent of Schools appointed.  
Maugus Avenue accepted.  
"Watchmen" appointed.
- 1894 New High School Building on Washington Street.  
Fire Alarm System introduced.  
Wellesley Telephone Exchange established at Wellesley Hills.  
St. Andrew's Chapel built.
- 1895 Washington Elm at Newton Lower Falls taken down.  
Chief of Police appointed.
- 1896 Natick and Cochituate Street Railway open for traffic.  
"Watchmen" made police officers.
- 1897 Prescott Street accepted; Hillside Road accepted.  
Cushing Street accepted; Cliff Road accepted.  
Hawthorne Street accepted; Cypress Street accepted.
- 1898 Day officers on police staff.  
"Our Town" first published.
- 1899 Friendly Aid organized.
- 1900 Washington Street widened and rebuilt.  
Central Street widened and rebuilt.  
Three scholarships given to the town by Wellesley College.  
Board of Health becomes a separate department.  
Library Trustees a separate board.
- 1901 Police Signal Department established.
- 1901 New building for Wellesley Hills Congregational Church erected.  
Board of Water and Municipal Light Commissioners created.
- 1902 Water and Electric Light Commissioners consolidated.
- 1903 Boston and Worcester Street Railway opened.  
Police Signal system established.  
Hose 3 built.  
Block System introduced.  
Town Council without salary.
- 1904 Wellesley National Bank established.
- 1905 Brook Street accepted.  
Name of Chestnut Street changed to Cliff Road.  
Wellesley Village Improvement Society organized.  
"Townsmen" first published.

## DATES OF INTEREST

- 1906 Hospital Deed of Trust declared and Trustees appointed.  
Fairbanks Avenue accepted.  
Hills and Falls Village Improvement Society organized.
- 1907 New High School built on Kingsbury Street.  
Cliff Road extended to Weston line.  
Bradford Road accepted.  
Name of Blossom Street changed back to Weston Road.  
Wellesley Firemen's Relief Association organized.
- 1908 Elm Park Hotel and grounds taken over by the town, through  
private subscriptions and town appropriation.  
All night schedule for street lights.
- 1909 Hampton Street accepted.  
Appropriation Committee appointed.  
Foot bridge at Newton Lower Falls rebuilt.
- 1910 Town Farm discontinued as such and leased to the Wellesley  
Country Club.  
Pine Street accepted.  
Hundreds Road accepted.  
Fire whistle instituted.
- 1911 Alice Phillips Union school built on Seaward Road.  
Arlington Road accepted.  
Franklin Road accepted.  
Fletcher Road accepted.  
Advisory Committee appointed and Appropriation Committee  
discontinued.  
Tablet to Revolutionary soldiers dedicated on College grounds.  
Two additional scholarships given to the town by Wellesley  
College.  
Teachers' pension fund accepted by the town.  
Maple Place changed to Seaward Road.  
Tablet dedicated to Revolutionary Soldiers.
- 1912 New set of town by-laws accepted by the town.  
Expert accountant appointed.  
Art commissioners chosen.
- 1913 Library Exchange at Wellesley Hills established.  
Building laws adopted.  
River Ridge Road accepted.  
Prospect Street accepted.  
Livermore Road extension accepted.  
Solon Street accepted.  
Middlesex Street accepted.
- 1914 Banercroft Road accepted.  
Morton Street accepted.  
Leighton Road accepted.  
Main Building Wellesley College burned.
- 1915 Population 6439.  
Voted to enter Metropolitan Sewerage System.
- 1916 St. Paul's Mission built church in Wellesley.  
Wellesley Congregational Church burned.





HISTORY OF THE  
TOWN OF WELLESLEY



# HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

---

## SETTLEMENT AND ORIGINAL GRANTS

The history of the town of Wellesley is necessarily brief as the town was incorporated as late as April 6, 1881. It was, until that time, a part of the town of Needham (incorporated in 1711), and previous to that its territory was included within the limits of Dedham.

In 1635 the general court then sitting at Newtowne (now Cambridge) granted a tract of land south of the Charles River to twelve men. In 1636 nineteen men, including the original twelve, petitioned the general court then at Boston for all the land south of the Charles River and above the falls and a tract five miles square north of the Charles. This land includes what is now Dedham, Wrentham, Needham, Wellesley, Walpole, Bel-  
lingham, Franklin, Dover, Natick and a part of Sherborn.

On the 28th of September, 1638, several men were sent out from Dedham to "discover the river" above the town. They returned on the 10th of October, having gone perhaps ten miles along its course.

In 1643 Major Eleazer Lusher and Lieutenant Daniel Fisher laid out the tract of land which includes Needham, Natick, Wellesley and a portion of Sherborn.

The northern bounds of the plantation were fixed by order of the general court in May 1639, when the southern line of Watertown was stated to run to "Partition Point" and so upon the same point still till it be from their meeting house eight miles, and this line was set up as the bounds between Dedham and Watertown until Dedham shall have taken in the five miles square granted them, "so as it shall not run within two miles of Coijchawicke Ponds." The line was run by Mr. Oliver. Watertown had accepted against Dedham's claim to land on the north two years before, and not until May, 1651, was the matter settled between the two towns, when a committee of both towns met and agreed upon the line, "beginning at Partition Point and so to run straight west, something inclining toward the south."

This line runs West 13 South, and is in length 993 rods between Weston, which was set off from Watertown, January 1, 1712.

This line became the northern line of Needham when that precinct was set off from Dedham, November 5, 1711, and the north line of Wellesley when that town was set off from Needham, April 6, 1881.

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

The land was owned by the Indians and later purchased by the whites, but "the Pilgrims and Puritans mostly looked on the Indians as heathen whose inheritance God meant to give to his people as of old he had dealt with Israel and their heathen"; and therefore they agreed that their moral right was practically without question.

But there came a time when the inhabitants of Dedham, dreading interference with their title to the lands occupied by them, sought in common with the people of other plantations at this time, to ratify their title so far as possible. They obtained the deeds now preserved in the town archives of Dedham.

In April, 1680, the town of Dedham agreed to give to William Nehoiden ten pounds in money, forty shillings in Indian corn, forty acres of land for territory seven miles long from east to west on the north side of the Charles river and five miles wide. In the same year the town of Dedham gave the sachem Magos three pounds in Indian corn and five in money for his lands around Magos' hill. Thus were the Indian titles to Natick and Needham extinguished. (Dedham Town Records.)

Nehoiden's grant was chiefly connected with the Needham land—Na-ha-tan. Magos, as written by him, though pronounced Maugus, deeded what is substantially Wellesley to the town of Dedham. He was one of John Eliot's "Natick Indians."

Maugus' habitation is generally supposed to have been near the spring at the junction of Brookside Road and Oakland Street. He probably had other wigwams, one at Maugus Hill and another in Natick, as it was the custom of the Indians to move about according to the season. His father was Jacob, whom we find signing a deed in 1639. He probably was one of the Concord Indians. His brother Simon went to Maine. Maugus had no sons, but his daughter Catherine married William Tray. Maugus was taken to Deer Island with other Natick Indians in 1676, and we hear of him as joining Captain Samuel Hunting's Company to aid Seabury. He was one of the few Indians who could write his name, and was one of four teachers who taught the Natick Indians, receiving ten pounds per annum. His confession of faith is given in John Eliot's *Fears of Repentance*, published in 1652. His wife's Indian name is said to have been Waukeena, though her Christian name after baptism was Sarah.

The deeds are as follows: one is dated April 14, 1680, from William Nahatan (signature written bahaton), Alias Quaanan, his brothers Peter Natoogus and Benjamin Nahaton and their sisters Tahheesaish Nahuton and Hanna Nahaton (signature Nahuton) Alias Iam Mew Wosh, living in Punkapogg, near Blue Hill, "conveys to Dedham all their interest in a tract of land as it lyeth towards the northerly side of the bounds of Dedham by the Great Falls in the Charles River and bounded upon the Charles River towards the East and upon said River up stream as the river lyeth and so continuing abutting upon said river until it came to the brook called Natick Saw Mill Brook and abutteth upon said brook

## SETTLEMENT AND ORIGINAL GRANTS

toward the west, and so with a varying line near the southerly side of the herd yards and from thence near the foot of Maugus Hill on the southerly side and from thence the same course until the line come to that brook called Rosemary Meadow Brook and the said Brook to the Charles River is the rest of the bound."

The other dated April 18, 1681, from John Magus and Sarah Magus, Indians inhabiting Natick, conveys to the town the whole parcel of land in Dedham bounded upon Watertown bounds in part and Natick in part toward the north upon Natick, bounds towards the west and southwest upon the Charles River toward the south and upon the lands that William Nahayton sold to Dedham towards the southeast and upon the Charles River toward the northeast. (Dedham Town Records.) (There was doubt as to whether Neholdden did not own all the land in this vicinity, but as Maugus laid claim to this part, his claim was recognized.)

The line between Maugus and Nahaton runs about 200 rods distant northeast from the boundary lines between Needham and Wellesley. Maugus' land included the herd yard which (as near as can be made out) was located between Linden and Seaver Streets on both sides of the brook which flows into Dewing brook not far from the Edwin Fuller place. Mr. Charles Kingsbury occupied a part of an ancient homestead (now belonging to E. H. Fay) and this house probably stands on the herd yard land.

There have been many Indian relics picked up on the old Rice farm at Lower Falls, and there are evidences that the glen north of Glen Road, through which the brook from Indian Spring flows to the river, was a favorite camping place. Here indeed may have been the site of the Indian village called Coowate, a name derived perhaps from words which would signify a sleeping place, or possibly, though not so likely, from the prevalence of pine trees at this bend of the river. The place was so called at the time of King Philip's War.

Natick Saw Mill Brook was the brook which connects Lake Waban with the Charles River, running under Washington Street just east of the Durant residence. John Eliot built a saw mill there in the early settlement of the Indians in that part of Dedham which was called by the Indian name of Natick (a place of hills). At the request of Eliot, the missionary to the Indians, Dedham granted in 1651, two thousand acres of land for the Indian village. The Indians had been gathered together at Nonantum from various other places, but it was deemed advisable to take them further inland away from the whites. Eliot preached his first sermon to the Indians, October 28, 1646, at Nonantum in Waban's wigwam.

Waban was originally a Concord Indian, and died in 1674, aged seventy years. His widow, Tansunsquaw, the eldest daughter of the Concord sachem, Tahattawan, and his son Thomas were living in Natick in 1684. Thomas' Indian name was Weegrammomenet. Waban inherited his property through his wife's family. A warrant issued by him is interesting for its quaint English:

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

"You, you big constable; quick you catchem Jeremiah Offscow;  
strong you holdem, safe you bringum afore me, Thomas Waban,  
Justice peace."

The story is told that Waban's wife said that it was hard work now that her husband had become a gentleman to meet the requirements, so she went to Mrs. William Deming's to learn how to iron pleated shirts.

The Indians were divided into four companies. Two of them being within our present precincts are worth noting: "1676. . . . Another company live near Natic adjoining the garrison house of Andrew Dewin and his sons, who desire their neighborhood and are under his protection; the number of these be about fifty souls, of whom 10 were men. A third company of them with Waban live near the falls of the Charles River, near to the house of Joseph Miller and not far from Capt. Prentice. The number of these be about sixty souls of whom 12 were men."

Lake Waban, called at different times Saw Mill Pond—Cunningham's—Bullard's—received its present name in the early 60's. The Indian name of Charles River was Quinobequin, generally supposed to mean the river that turns upon itself. It was named for King Charles by John Smith in his trip along the coast in 1614. Corvate, meaning Great Falls, was an early name used in the vicinity. Cochituate, meaning Long Pond, and so called at one time, was variously Cochichawick, Cochitua, and Wachituate.

In 1676 the Natick Indians were accused of burning an old barn in Dedham and were sent to Deer Island as punishment. It is questioned whether other Indians or even English hostile to the Praying Indians did not do this, and lay the crime at their door. These Praying Indians were established throughout the colony in about six communities. They and their friends were ridiculed by the other inhabitants and were so obnoxious to them that if they could be injured in any way it was done. About two hundred from Natick were hurried to Deer Island at an hour's notice. They embarked at The Pines, probably opposite the Arsenal at Watertown, with what household goods they could take with them. Captain Prentice had charge of them and did all he could to aid them. The winter was very severe and they suffered many hardships. When they returned they found their houses burned and their household goods destroyed. Major Gookin had general oversight of all the Indians of the colony and when he died Captain Prentice was given the superintendence of affairs.

The Natick records have the following list of officers elected in the first recorded town meeting:

<i>Selectmen</i>	James Speen
	Capt Thomas Waban
	Lt. John Wamsquam
<i>Tythingmen</i>	John Thomas Senr
	Peter Ephraim



## SETTLEMENT AND ORIGINAL GRANTS

George Takechap  
 Samel Pegan  
 Samel English  
*Constable* Saml Abraham  
*Fence viewer* James Wish  
*Surveyors of* Abraham Speen  
*Highways* Thos. Peegan  
*Schoolmaster* John Thomas Senr  
*Heywards* Peter upbakatah Jun.  
                   Sam'll Bowman  
                   Jno. Speen  
*Town Clerk* Capt. Waban  
 By John Leveritt's Order

Among intentions of marriage are those of Abraham Speen and Rachel Waban April 20, 1737; Isaak and Elizabeth Peegan August 6, 1738, forbidden by Patiames Tom August 7, 1738; Comacho and Sarah Ephraim January 13, 1741; Sarah Comacho Jr. and Jonas Tom May 16, 1793; Anthony Dego and Thankful Quacco, December 11, 1755. Among the deaths are the following from the church records who were descendants of Waban:—

Waban—Esther wid. of 1747-8  
 ——— capt., 1722  
 ——— w. of isaac, 1743  
 ——— Isaac, Jan. 15, 1745-6  
 ——— Jabez s. of Hezekiah Mar.—1751  
 ——— Moses 1746  
 ——— Rachel wid. of Dec. 17, 1745  
 ——— Sarah w. of Thomas Jun. 1752  
 ——— Solomon s. of Hezekiah 1756  
 ——— Thom (as) 1733  
 ——— Thomas 1752

The whole management of the village was given over to the Indians, and they governed and controlled it for many years, but the tribe died out slowly but surely, and by 1826 was extinct. In 1672 the government passed into the hands of the English. Daniel Takawumpbait was an Indian pastor in 1716, and on his death the church broke up and by 1729 there was an English and Indian church under Mr. Peabody.

The earliest general grant of land within the present Wellesley precincts was in 1659 when the Dedham planters laid out a division of corn land called the Natick dividend and the grants were made at Natick Saw Mill Brook to Peter Woodward, John Aldis, Rev. John Allin, Thomas Metcalf, Theophilus Fray, Michael Metcalf, Andrew Dewin, Richard Wheeler, the church of Dedham, Natick School Farm of three hundred acres, this latter being now the B. P. Cheney estate. There were forty-seven grants practically all of them bordering upon

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Sawmill Pond, Natick Brook, Charles River and Natick. Almost all of this land was in the present precincts of Wellesley, Needham and Dover.

The town record has the following: "Feb. 2, 1659, upon a question proposed by the committee that were deputed to lay out the land near Natick that is what is the town's intent in their former vote near about Natick wheresoever. The town for explanation therefore declare by their vote that they intend all the land that is fit for corn land first at the southeast side of the Charles River and near or adjoining thereto, and also on plain that lies near our Town containing about 100 acres more or less and also the remainder of that plain whereupon Natick Meeting House stands and also the lands between Natick Brook and the house and about that house and all about Maugus, his wigwam and so down towards the River there, that is so much as is fit for improvements for corn." <sup>1</sup> (Copied from writing book.)

The next grant was in March, 1695, when the proprietors voted to lay out the lands within the town bounds on the northerly side of Sherburne to the lower falls, which lands are in Sherburne. In 1699 *thirty-four* hundred acres were accordingly laid out and assigned to those who could show their rights therein. (Vol. 5 Dedham Records. P. 249.)

The assignments were as follows:

### DEDHAM GRANTS

2-451-1.      Granted vnto the Town of Dedham A farme of three hundred acres of upland meadow and Swamp to be Wholy to the use and benifit of a Schoole in Dedham to be Improved for the maintenance thereof lying within our bounds towards Sudbery layed out and Return thereof made by Mr. Timothy Dwight Jonath Gay and John Smith the Commity Chosen and deputed thereunto as it lyeth Abutting upon a pond towards the South the wast land towards the west Watertown lyne towards the North the wast land towards the East

2-475-2.      Granted to the Church in Dedham and to their successor and Assignes forever fifty acres of land and to William Avery and to his Heires and Assignes forever fifty acres the whole being one hundred acres lying undivided in the Devident of land layed out on the North-erly side of Sherborn Road bounded Abutting upon the Road leading from Sherborn to the lower falls in Charles River towards the South and upon the fifth lot towards the North upon a great Pond towards the west and upon a way left to the other lots towards the East

2-471-1.      Granted to Samvell Mors and to his Heyers and Assignes forever one thousand and four hundred acres of land as it lyeth in that devident agreed upon and layed

## SETTLEMENT AND ORIGINAL GRANTS

out on the Northerly side of Sherborn Rode leading to the falls the propriaty thereof being purchased of severall of the propriators of this Town of Dedham as apper by Deeds under their hands to said Samvell Mors Abutting upon Mathew Rice in part and John Coller in part towards the North upon Natick towards the west and South upon the Schoole farme in part a Pond and a Brooke runing out of the same in part towards the East the whole of said tract of land be it more or less 1699

- 2-473-5.       Granted to John Smith and to his Heires and Assignes forever one hundred acres of land as it lyeth in that devident of land on the North side of Sherborn Road abutting upon Watertown line towards the North and upon the land of said John Smith towards the South and upon marked trees marked two on the west and two on the East side of said lot on that side of the trees Next to said lot it being the second lot in number
- 2-473-4.       Granted to Eleazer Kingsbery and to his Heires and Assignes forever one hundred acres of land lying in that devident layed out on the North side of Sberborn Road Abutting upon Watertown line towards the North and upon lots in Natick devident towards the south and is bounded East and west by trees marked with three on that side next to this lot being numbered for a third lot in laying out
- 2-473-6.       Granted to John Huntting Sen and to his Heires and Assignes forever one hundred acres of land more or less as it lyeth in that Devident on the North side of Sherborn Road Abutting upon Watertown line towards the North and vpon Natick Devident towards the South and South East and upon Eleazer Kingsbery towards the west and upon Capt Daniell Fisher towards the East the trees being marked with four on the East and west side of the same it being the fourth lot in number
- 2-472-3.       Granted to Capt Daniell Fisher and to his Heirs and Assignes forever four hundred acres of land as it lyeth in that devident of land on the north side of Sherborn Road one hundred acres abutting upon Watertown line towards the North and upon Sherborn Road in part and John Parker in part towards the South and is bounded and marked East and west by trees being marked with the number eight on that side next to it being the eight lot: More two hundred acres of land in the same Devident as it is bounded Abutting upon Watertown line towards the North and upon Sherborn Road towards the South: being the fifth and sixth lots and is bounded by

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

trees marked six on the East side and with trees marked with five on the west side of said lots: More one hundred acres as it is bounded and Abutts upon the hundred acres drawn for the Church and for William Avery towards the South East being the fifth lot and is bounded by trees marked with five on the SouthEast side of said lot and with trees marked with five on the Northwest side of said lot and upon a Brooke in part and a Pond in part towards the Southwest and upon land left for a way towards the NorthEast

Granted to William Bullard Capt John Fisher Georg Robinson Andrew Watkins Jeremiah Gay, Benjemin Fairbanks and to their heirs and Assignes for ever two hundred acres of land in that dividant lying on the northwardly side of Sherburn Road to the lower falls comonly called Sherburn devident The first hundred acres being Numbred the Seventh lot bounded upon the boundary line between Nedham and Watertown towards the North upon the sixth lot drawn by Capt Fisher deceased towards the east upon the Shereburn Road toward the South upon the eight lot drawn by sd Fisher deceased towards the west. The second hundred acres of land lying in the same devident being the seventh lot in the drawing bounded upon the School land towards the west, upon the hundred drawn by Mills Woodecock Aldrig and Metcalfe towards the South—upon the hundred drawn by Benjemin Mills toward the North: the Intrest of the above said proprietors is as followeth Capt John Fisher nine acres and sixty rods William Bullard fifty acres Georg Robinson ninty two acres and one half acre six acres and one quarter of these acres is upon the rights of Jonathan Gay deceased thirty nine acres and three quarters is upon the Rights of the heirs of Benjemin fairbanks Andrew Wadkins six acres and one quarter upon the Right of Edward Cook March 2d 1715-16

2-475-1.

Granted to Benjamin Mills and to his Hares and assignes forever two hundred acres of land in the Devident on the north side of Sherborn Road in two perciells one hundred acres bounded Abutting upon land granted to the school in Dedham towards the west and upon Watertown line towards the North and upon trees marked one towards the South and upon trees marked three: in part towards the East The other hundred acres of land more or less is bounded Abutting upon Watertown line towards the northwest and upon the land of John Parker in part and the land of Joseph Daniells in part towards the South East and upon trees marked nine towards the Southwest and northEast

## SETTLEMENT AND ORIGINAL GRANTS

- 2-474-9.      Granted to Joseph Faierbanke Samvell Whitting Timothy Whitting & Jonathan Whitting to them their Heires and Assignes forever one hundred acres of land more or less on the North side of Sherborn Road bounded Abutting upon a Pond in part & a Brook towards the West & upon the land of Capt Daniell Fisher towards the South & upon trees marked four on one side and three on the other side towards the North & upon a Highway towards the East: each of them Interested in said hundred acres proportionable to their Interest in Cow Common Rights in Dedham
- 2-476-3.      Granted to Capt Daniell Fisher and to his Heires and Assignes forever two hundred acres of land more or less bounded Abutting upon Watertown line towards the North & upon the land of Joseph Daniells in part and the land of said Fisher in part towards the South & bounded by trees marked eleven on the one side and twelve on the other side towards the East and by trees marked ten on the one side and nine on the other side towards the west being the easterly bounds of the fifth lot in the drawing but the ninth in number and the trees abovesaid marked eleven on one side and twelve on the other is the westerly bounds of the first lot in drawing but ye twelveth in number
- 2-472-2.      Granted to John Baker Nathanell Richards Jonathan Gay & Edward Deuotion to them and their Heyers and Assignes forever to each of them according to their Interest in that devident of land layed out over Sherborn Roade towards Watertown two hundred acres more or less as it is bounded and Abutteth upon Watertown line towards the North upon Charls River towards the East and upon the way leading from Sherborn to the lower falls towards the South and upon the eleventh lote towards the west & northwest the trees marked eleven on one side and twelve on the other

Sherburne Road (now Washington Street) was originally the Indian trail, and called the Natick path, from Nonantum (Newton) to Sherburne or Dedham, (Sherburne then being the westerly part of Dedham). It was laid out from Boston to Sherburne in 1671.

The fourteen hundred acres assigned to Samuel Morse was in that part of the present Natick then called "Needham Leg," and now Felchville.<sup>2</sup> In 1701 the town of Dedham sold for fifty pounds its school farm to Jeremiah Gay, whose daughter Sibell married Ephraim Stevens of Holden, October 11, 1759, and this land, carefully surveyed, was kept intact in the family as late as 1835. This is the only exact survey recorded, the rest of the land being only approximately estimated, as far as any one seems to know. The Stevens' land extended from Morse's Pond (once called Broad's Pond) to



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Weston town line 167 rods wide at Weston line; 377 rods was on line running north and south. A part of this land now belongs to Abel Stevens. A few years ago there stood a short distance in the rear of the present Stevens house, an old house which very possibly was the home of Jeremiah Gay who died according to the town records April 26, 1770.

Wellesley Hills was included almost wholly in the tract of land assigned to Captain Daniel Fisher of Dedham, who took Sir Edmund Andros by the collar and drew him from his place of refuge back to Fort Hill in the Rebellion of 1699.<sup>3</sup> Our present tract of woodland known as the "Hundreds" is of course a part of the old 1699 dividend.

<sup>1</sup> In the settlement of the plantation boundaries in 1663 the Saw Mill Brook was made the boundary line of Dedham at this point and this was adhered to in the after adjustment of 1700 and for one hundred and fifty years later the Saw Mill Brook and Pond are referred to in the conveyance of land in this direction.

<sup>2</sup> Tradition says that Indians in Deerfield, wishing to join the Naticks bargained their lands there for an equal number of acres in Dedham, adjoining Natick, and that the tract assigned in exchange, being afterwards found to overrun, the amount of the leg was detached and sold to Samuel Morse, and his title recorded as above in the books of the proprietors of Dedham. On his death his son Samuel settled on the Natick land. (Morse's Genealogy.)

<sup>3</sup> Grievously oppressed by the administration of Andros, and hearing indirectly of the landing of the Prince of Orange in England and the consequent revolution in the government there, the people of Massachusetts, without waiting for a confirmation, determined to take its truth for granted, and simultaneously set about accomplishing a revolution of their own. On the morning of April 18, 1689, Boston was in arms. The governor and Council were seized and confined, and the old magistrates reinstated. The country people came into town in such heat and rage as made all tremble to think what would follow. Nothing would satisfy but that the Governor must be bound in chains or cords and put in a more secure place; and for their quiet he was guarded by them to the fort. Whose hand was on the collar of that prisoner, leading him through the excited crowd, at once securing him from escape and guarding him from outrage? It was the hand of Daniel Fisher of Dedham; aye, "a second Daniel come to JUDGMENT," a son of the farmer, and heir of his energetic ardor in the cause of freedom, the son of Abigail Morse, and a just representative of traits characteristic of her father's race for at least five generations. (Copied from old records in Morse's Genealogy.)

## SEPARATION FROM NEEDHAM AND ORIGIN OF THE NAME

Natick was set off from Dedham in 1781, and Needham Leg was added to Natick in 1797, one thousand six hundred and fifty-six acres being taken from Needham and Needham getting four hundred and four acres in turn, making a better boundary line on the south and fixing the final line between Natick and Needham which had previously been about on the line of the ponds—Waban and Morse's.

From 1750 to 1796 the Hunnewell estate belonged to the Indian town of Natick, and when in 1797 an exchange was made with Needham for the so-called Needham Leg six hundred acres of the Hunnewell estate fell within the present town of Wellesley. In addition Needham received into its West Parish eighteen very de-



## SEPARATION FROM NEEDHAM

sirable families which were a most welcome addition, and made the community feel authorized in calling a minister. Parson Noyes was the first minister and preached until 1833.

In 1711 the western part of Needham was incorporated as Needham, the name being taken from the neighboring town of the English Dedham.

From then to 1774 there was but one parish in the town of Needham, but as early as 1732 inhabitants of the westerly part asked to be freed of taxes. In 1738 it was voted "to free the inhabitants west of Natick Brook at this time as to repairing and building pews in the Meeting House." May 2, 1767 an article in the warrant called for "a committee to find the center of the town for a meeting house, otherwise let the westerly portion go over to Natick." This was passed in the negative. In 1774 after the burning of the meeting house the previous year it was voted not to accept of the judgment of the later committee for the court which was that the "Meeting House should stand at or near the second center in order to accommodate the town." The West End, however, was excused from paying towards the Meeting House if erected where the Town voted, and "provided they proceed in building a meeting house and maintain preaching among them." The petitions of 1774 and 1778 resulted in the establishing of the West Parish. Two hundred pounds were at once raised by subscription and a meeting house was commenced but not finished for several years, and preaching was "maintained" but a settled ministry was not established for more than twenty years.

July 6, 1778, the West Precinct, having been incorporated by act of the General Court, was formally organized by the choice of Captain Eleazar Kingsberry, moderator, Lieutenant William Fuller, precinct clerk, Captain Caleb Kingsberry, precinct treasurer, and Captain Eleazar Kingsberry, Lieutenant Isaac Goodenow and Mr. Jonathan Dewing, precinct committee.

Freedom in religious matters did not, however, entirely satisfy the inhabitants of the westerly part of the town, as, very early, efforts were made to obtain separate political rights. A strenuous effort was made in 1801. In 1817 a committee chosen to investigate reported favorably for a division; 1820 and 1821 brought similar appeals. In 1852<sup>1</sup> and 1859<sup>2</sup> efforts were again made, but in all cases they were practically ignored, and when the final division came, the records for the following town meeting in Needham contains no mention whatever of the change.

In 1880 an appeal was made, with almost absolute unanimity by the inhabitants of the west side, now grown to be a large and wealthy community, to the Legislature, and with so great force of reason and argument that the petition was granted, and the town incorporated and named Wellesley.

Under the act of incorporation, Solomon Flag, town clerk of Needham for thirty years and a warm advocate of incorporation, called a meeting for the organization of the town and the following officers were chosen, April 18, 1881: moderator, George K.

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Daniell; town clerk, Solomon Flagg; town treasurer, Albert Jennings; selectmen and overseers of the poor, Lyman K. Putney, Walter Hunnewell, John W. Shaw; assessors, George K. Daniell, Joseph H. Dewing, Dexter Kingsbury; school committee, Joseph E. Fiske, for three years, Benjamin H. Sanborn, for two years, Marshall L. Perrin, for one year.

At a subsequent meeting, April 30th, appropriations were made for expenses, among others, eight thousand dollars for schools, three thousand five hundred dollars for highways and sidewalks, and it was voted that no licenses to sell intoxicating liquors should be granted.

Under the act of incorporation, certain matters were left for adjustment and settlement between the parent town and Wellesley, which were all satisfactorily arranged, the provision with regard to the support of schools being put into the hands of a commission and settled later.

In the autumn of 1882 it was voted by the town to petition the Legislature to pass an act to allow the town to introduce water for domestic and other purposes and a committee was chosen to examine into the matter of water supply and report to the town.

The Legislature passed the act asked for and the committee, of which Judge George White was chairman, reported a plan to the town, advising pumping water from the borders of the Charles River, near the northeasterly limit of the town, on or near land of Charles Rice, into a reservoir upon Maugus Hill and thence distributing it substantially over the whole town. This report was accepted and full effect given to it at a subsequent meeting, Dec. 22, 1883, at which meeting Albion R. Clapp was chosen water commissioner for three years, William S. Ware for two years and Walter Hunnewell for one year.

The town of Wellesley is rectangular in shape though somewhat irregular, being about four and one-half miles in length and about two and one-quarter in width. Its neighbors on the south are Needham and Dover, on the east, the "Garden City," Newton, on the north, Weston, and on the west, Natick. The Charles River flows along its entire eastern boundary, and for a short distance along its southeasterly limit.

The town has a wide reputation for healthfulness, owing in great measure to its elevation, combined with the dryness of its soil and freedom from all malarial and other unhealthful tendencies. Its charm consists in its rural atmosphere, its pleasant homes, its delightful drives and its beautiful scenery. The main street, named for our first president and noted with favor by Washington when he made his tour in 1789, as a "good road," affords a notable drive, much of the way arched with trees, passing by churches of various architecture and varied beliefs, by the former home of Dr. William Morton, the discoverer of that greatest of boons to human sufferers, sulphuric ether; by the college, the monument of Henry F. Durant; by beautiful Lake Waban, Lake of the Wind, named

## SEPARATION FROM NEEDHAM

for Eliot's first convert, by the villas of the Hunnewells to the limits of the town of Natick. Two conduits of the Boston Water Works mar the landscape in general, but in a few places, as the long viaduct across Waban Brook, and the bridge across the Charles, add beauties of architecture to the natural scenery.

The name "Wellesley" is derived from the Welles family. Samuel Welles, the maternal grandfather of the late Mrs. H. H. Hunnewell, Senior, bought the place at the corner of Washington Street and Pond Road (then called Saw Mill Road—later Ward's Lane) as early as 1763. This place was occupied by him for many years as a farm and summer home.

His father, Samuel Welles, a graduate of Yale College, 1707, married Hannah Arnold and removed to Boston, where his wife inherited large property in the vicinity of Boylston Market and where the State House now stands. The two sons, of Samuel, Samuel (born 1725, died 1799) and Arnold were graduated from Harvard College in 1744 and 1745 and appear first in the Triennial Catalogue of the college, indicating their very high social position.

Samuel married in 1772 Abigail Pratt, daughter of Chief Justice Pratt of New York state. He was succeeded in the ownership of the property by his nephew, John Welles, son of Arnold Welles. John Welles (born 1764, died 1855, a member of the class of Harvard College 1782) was the lineal descendant of Thomas Welles, of royal English descent, who came over with Lord Say and Seele, as private secretary, in 1736, and was afterwards chosen one of the magistrates of the Colony of Connecticut, its treasurer, deputy governor, and finally governor. Besides being a member of the firm of Welles and Company, Paris and Boston bankers, John Welles was interested in scientific farming and stock-raising. He was a pioneer in the importation of blooded stock from England, giving especial attention to Durham stock.

Mr. Welles at one time owned largely of real estate in Natick, Sherborn and surrounding towns, as well as in Needham. The town farm, now the Country Club, was bought from him by Needham in 1828, he having bought it from the Kingsbury family.

The Welles homestead on Pond Road originally belonged to Jonathan Richardson, a blacksmith. The property contained a house and sixty-three acres of land in six parcels, all bought of the Indians previous to 1743. This house was moved to the village of South Natick and the southwest end of the present house built. It is now over one hundred and fifty years old. A later part was built in 1829 by Arnold Welles who inherited from Samuel at his death in 1799 the homestead and 310 acres. Part of this including Train Hill, Maple Hill and King Hill, later became the property of Benjamin Welles, who was bought out by H. H. Hunnewell. Mr. Hunnewell also purchased from other heirs.

The Morrill house, owned and built by Dr. Isaac Morrill in 1775, was sold by him in 1836 to Cutler who in the same year conveyed to John Welles. This is now the home of Mrs. Francis W. Sargent.

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

John Welles married Abigail (born 1776 and died 1844) the daughter of Samuel and Isabella (Pratt) Welles, and their daughter Isabella married H. H. Hunnewell, the son of Dr. Walter Hunnewell of Watertown. Mr. Hunnewell was born in 1810, and very early went to Paris to engage in business in the firm of Welles and Company, remaining there until 1839, when he returned to Massachusetts, making his summer residence in the "Morrill House" until 1852, when he erected the present homestead.

This estate has been a prominent object of attraction in the town for many years, especially among those who take an interest in horticulture. The Italian Gardens overlooking the Lake and opposite the college buildings, laid out in 1854, were the first of their kind in the country.

In addition to opening his gardens to the public, Mr. Hunnewell gave to the town a park of ten acres to surround the town hall and library, which building he gave "to promote the prosperity of the town of Wellesley and the welfare and happiness of its inhabitants and at the same time to advance the cause of sound learning, education and letters." The period of construction of the library building ran from 1880 to 1883; and that of the town hall from 1883 to 1886.

The town seal was designed by the architect of the building, George R. Shaw, the brother of Robert G. Shaw. The open book stands for Wellesley College, the conventionalized flower across the book for the Hunnewell Gardens, and the tomahawk and Indian arrows for early associations with the Indian inhabitants.

At a special town meeting in the fall of 1887 the following resolutions were unanimously adopted: "We, the citizens of Wellesley in town meeting assembled, cordially recognizing the continued public spirit and great generosity of our distinguished fellow-townsmen, H. Hollis Hunnewell, do heartily thank him, as for his former, so now for his latest munificent gift, the beautiful and commodious town hall, and assure him of our increasing esteem and affection: and it is further Resolved, that, while we accept the costly building for ourselves and for our children to be used in the interest of the town, we hold and cherish it, built as it is of imperishable stones, as a fitting memorial of the purity, integrity and worth of the man who gave it. And be it further Resolved, that these resolutions be entered on the records of the town and that they be forwarded to our fellow-townsmen, H. H. Hunnewell."

In 1915 a bronze tablet was put up on the wall in the entrance of the town hall, commemorating the gift.

A further gift of land for a playground on Washington Street is of great value to the town. And it is a pleasure to record the continued interest and liberality of Mr. Hunnewell's descendants in all that purports to the welfare of the town.

(Copied from a report of a special committee made December 6, 1859.)

(Also see paper on the division of the town at end of book.)

## SEPARATION FROM NEEDHAM

<sup>1</sup> An old document, evidently written by the editor's grandfather, gives the list of men who subscribed in 1852 in an effort to divide the east and west. General Charles Rice and Emery Fisk were the leaders in the movement.

Proposition of the west Parrish to the East upon the subject of dividing the Town.

In case of a division We propose

1st to sell all the public property & pay all debts the Town owe and divide the surplus if any equal between the two parishes.

2nd We propose to surrender all our right & interest in the Dover school land to the East Parrish.

3rd We propose to pay to the East parrish on the 2nd Monday of December annually for five years the sum of one Thousand dollars per year.

This part of the document is unsigned but it is accompanied by the following statement of receipts and expenditures, showing who were the men interested:

Needham, Feb. 1852.

An account of money paid in on a subscription list for the purpose of defraying the Expense caused by petitioning the Legeslature to divide the town:

Cash Rec'd.	
William Flagg .....	\$3.00
Emery Fisk .....	3.00
Luther Gilbert .....	3.00
Charles Kingsbury .....	1.00
John A. Libby .....	.50
Henry L. Howe .....	.50
Robert S. Bullard .....	.50
Nath. Wales, Jr. ....	3.00
H. G. Perkins .....	1.00
John Mansfield .....	.50
Dexter Kingsbury .....	1.00
Daniel Ware .....	1.00
H. A. Fuller .....	1.00
I. W. Wright .....	1.00
H. T. Guild .....	1.00
Andrew Bigelow .....	2.00
L. A. Kingsbury .....	1.00
George Jennings .....	1.00
James Moulton .....	\$1.00
Richard Parker .....	1.00
Edwin Fuller .....	1.00
Augustus Fuller .....	1.00
Ruel Ware .....	1.00
Wm. H. Flagg .....	.50
C. T. Dedmon .....	.50
W. G. Snelling .....	1.00
D. Ware .....	1.00
Willard Kingsbury .....	1.00
George Smith .....	1.50
S. T. Smith .....	1.50
Jonathan Fuller, Jr. ....	3.00
George W. Hoogs, Jr. ....	1.00
George F. Darling .....	1.00
John Davis .....	1.50
Daniel Morse .....	2.00
Dea. H. Fuller .....	.50

Then follows under date of March 1, 1852 the following statement:

Account of Money Paid per order of the committee chosen for the purpose of attending to the subject of the petition upon dividing the Town.

March 1st, Paid J. B. Whitaker for plan of Town of Needham.....	\$5.37
" 2nd paid for package tickets .....	3.00
" 3rd paid at commonwelth office for printing .....	7.14
" 3rd Do plowman office .....	2.50
" 9th Do for 2nd plan of Town.....	5.00
" 13th Do Col. Chester Adams for attending before the Committee at the Legeslature .....	.90
C. C. Andrews, Esq. for professional services .....	15.00
Whiting and Russell .....	15.00

<sup>2</sup> At a special Town Meeting of the legal voters of Needham, on the eighth day of November last past, to act upon the petition of the Hon. E. K. Whitaker and others. for a Committee in reference to a division of the Town, as petitioned for to the Legislature by some of its inhabitants, and to make the necessary investigations respecting Town Paupers, Bridges, Schools, &c., and report at an adjourned meeting, it was voted:—

"That a Committee of three from each part of the Town, be chosen to take the whole subject of this article into consideration, and report at an adjourned meeting, and the following persons were chosen: Artemas Newell, Lauren Kingsbury and Calen Orr for the easterly part of the Town, and William Flagg, John W. Shaw, and George K. Daniell, for the westerly part. Voted to adjourn this meeting to the first Tuesday in December next, at one o'clock, P. M. A true copy of record. Attest: Solomon Flagg, Town Clerk."



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

The line of division of the Town, as petitioned for, as understood by the Committee, is delineated by a faint line on the published map of the Town, beginning at a point at Charles River, about a quarter of a mile below the Nail Factory at Upper Falls, and running southwesterly in straight line, crossing the road known as the "Worcester Turnpike" about a quarter of a mile westerly of said Nail Factory; crossing the artificial pond, and running near and westerly of the house of Isaac Flagg 2d; crossing the Rosemary Meadow, so-called, near and west of the house of Ralph Smith, running near and easterly of the residence of the late Otis Sawyer, and easterly of the Town Farm; crossing a road near and west of the house of Mr. Colcord, crossing a road near and west of Mr. Cartwright; thence running and crossing the highway near and east of the house of Mr. Risk, and west of the house of Mr. Knapp; thence running west of the Reynolds estate, crossing the new road leading to Natick, a few feet east of the bridge, to a point on Charles River, leaving the bridge on the west side of the line and the road on the east, —said line measuring, according to the map, from one point of the river to the other, about five and a quarter miles.

## ROADS AND BRIDGES

Sherborn (Sherburne) Road, now Washington Street, was called such in deeds as late as 1857, perhaps later. On a map of the locality by Samuel Jones, surveyor, in 1718 it is spoken of as "Sherborn or Bay Road." It was the original Indian Path between Nonantum and Natick. Walnut Street was, until the latter part of the eighteenth century, the main thoroughfare.<sup>1</sup> Linden Street from Rockland Street bridge to Kingsbury Street was originally part of Sherborn Road.

In 1822 alterations were made in Sherburne Road "by the lower falls and the highway should hereafter be known as a public one." These alterations began at Peter Lyons' house (opposite the North School on Walnut Street) over the land of Stedman, Parker, Pratt and Slack.

In 1826 the town "voted that the road laid out in 1804 from Ware and Wilder's store (in Wellesley Hills Square) to Seth Colburn's (corner of Oakland and Washington Streets) be discontinued and the new road be accepted as it now stands."

In 1846 it was voted to have a railway crossing at George Hoog's store (at the Lower Falls) and in 1853 a gate was placed there. In 1850 Washington Street was altered at the crossing of the Boston aqueduct on the Slack land.

In 1859 alterations and improvements were made from the West Meeting House to the South Natick line; in 1870 from W. F. Norcross' to the Lower Falls railroad at a cost of \$3,170.93; in 1872 from Peter Morrill's to Dexter Ware's.

Until 1881 the elms now on Mrs. Durant's lawn were on the south side instead of the north side of the road, and the same change, though at an earlier date, was made on the Unitarian Church lawn in Wellesley Hills.

The first road north of Sherborn Road was laid out in 1711, when John Smith petitioned the town to grant him a way out on the boundary of his lot. This is probably the beginning of our present Weston Road, which is a very old road. Weston Road (later called Blossom Street and now Weston Road again) originally extended to the Parker farm, then later to the Cavanagh farm,

## ROADS AND BRIDGES

when it turned to the left through the present Meadow Lane to the house of Ephraim Stevens.

Near here as early as 1661 Edward Hawes obtained a grant of land where he built a grist mill on the brook connecting Nonesuch Pond with Morse's. This contained forty-seven acres, and was in the Natick Divident "near the Watertown line and north of Natick path which leads from the Herd yards and south of Sudbury way."

The following in regard to this early road is copied from the records of the town of Dedham:—

"We whose names are hereunto inscribed being deputed by the selectmen of Dedham to lay out a highway from Sherborn Road to the farm of Jeremiah Gay which he bought of the town of Dedham have attended to s'd work and have laid out s'd way two rods wide.

Daniel Fisk

Andrew Dewing, Sec."

August 30, 1711.

In 1708 we find mention of a road across Sherburne Road to Andrew Dewing's land, which was probably the present Grove Street.

Glen Road, from Newton Lower Falls to Weston, was built in 1721 but was seven hundred feet east of the present bridge.

February 19, 1738, the following petition is recorded:

To the Hon. Selectmen of Needham:—

Whereas your Petitioners having no way to Mill or Market earnestly desire that you would be pleased to lay us out a way that may accommodate us to go to Mill and Market, beginning at Natick line to Sherborn highway and that it may be so speedily done that it may be confirmed at March meeting and so your Petitioners in duty will ever pray.

Stephen Bacon

John Goodanow

Timothy Underwood

Timothy Bacon

Edward Ward

Thomas Frost

Josiah Broad

These were names of owners of land along the north of Sherborn road.

A record shows that Central Street was laid out in 1726, but Church Street, Common Street, originally, was the main thoroughfare to North Natick until 1838, when the selectmen and agents applied to the county commissioners of Norfolk County that "so much of the Central Turnpike as lies within said town, to-wit: between the town of Natick and Blanchard's Hotel in said Needham should be laid out and established as a common highway. The said Turnpike is four rods in length and is laid out over land of heirs of Martha Jackson late of Natick deceased, Daniel Morse of Needham, Martin Broad of Natick, Beman Ford of Needham, heirs Ralph Smith Esq., late of Roxbury deceased, heirs Joseph Kingsbury,

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

late of Needham deceased, John Slack of Albany, N. Y., Alvin Fuller, 2d., Needham, Henry T. Burr of Needham and Reuben Kingsbury of Boston, and partly over the old county road. This petition was granted and the road accepted by the authorities. This road had in 1824 been laid out from Brookline to Holliston as a "Turnpike Road by the name of the Central Turnpike in West Needham crossing the Worcester turnpike by White and Sargent's Hotel." The name Turnpike was in use at least as late as 1868.

Many other roads were accepted and then rejected after being tried for awhile. A great many descriptions of boundaries may have been sufficient for the time but impossible for the modern investigator to find. As it was all new land, it was often merely guess work as to where were the best places for roads, with the result that many of the layouts were frequently changed. The following divisions of roads were accepted at a town meeting held April 6, 1829. "The first beginning at stake and stones at the road leading from Sherborn road a little west of the house formerly Col. Jona Kingsbury's to the East Meeting House, thence south 82 degrees east, to stake and stones in front of the aforesaid house, thence north 83 degrees east to stake and stones where the new piece comes into the old road; the second piece beginning at stake and stones about 10 rods east of the old saw mill dam across Rosemary Brook, thence through land at Gen. Chas. Rice, north 50 degrees east to stake and stones, thence north 77 degrees east to stake and stones, thence north 62 degrees east to stake and stones, where the new piece comes to the road leading from East Meeting House to Lower Falls. The third piece beginning at stake and stones near where the road parts, one leading to Lower Falls, the other to Upper Falls, thence through land to Moses Garfield, south 75 degrees, east to stake and stones at the road west of the house of Benj. Richardson, the aforesaid new pieces of wall are staked out on the south side and are laid out 2 rods wide."

In 1859 McCrackin Road was built at a cost of \$381. In 1859 Lovewell Road (now a part of Cottage Street) was built by William Flagg at a cost of \$406.88.

In 1873 a private way in Grantville between land of C. R. Miles and land of Noah Perin (Maugus Avenue) was laid out and accepted.

In 1873 Woodlawn Avenue (formerly Grove Street also called Fisk Lane) in Grantville, was widened; \$200 was awarded for land taken; \$300 was asked for in addition.

In 1873 Laurel Avenue, Grantville, was laid out.

In 1878 the street now called Rockland Street was accepted by the town. "This street has been used as a public way for five or six years and has been kept in repair by Mr. John Sawyer. The street is 950 feet long and we consider it as a public necessity, as it is the only street leading from Washington to Worcester Street, between Wellesley and Grantville."

In 1876 the names of the streets in the west part of the town as proposed by the selectmen were as follows:—



## ROADS AND BRIDGES

Albany Street, from Washington Street to Wellesley Depot, 336 feet long and 40 feet wide.

Allen Street, from Washington Street to Walnut Street, 1-8 mile long, 33 feet wide, estimated.

Benvenue Street, from Brook Street to Dover Street, 5-6 mile long, 33 feet wide, estimated.

Blossom Street, from Washington Street to Weston line 2 1-16 miles long, with varying widths, some places less than 20 feet wide.

Brookside Road, from Forest Avenue to Oakland Street, 1 1-3 miles long, 33 feet wide, estimated.

Cedar Street, from the Arch Bridge, Newton Lower Falls to Central Avenue, at Hurd's Corner, 1 3-8 miles long, 33 feet wide, estimated.

Central Street, from Wellesley Square to Natick line, 1 1-2 miles long and 55 feet wide.

Cottage Street, from Washington Street to Grove Street, 2-5 mile long, 33 feet wide, estimated. (Originally Lovewell Place.)

Church Street, from Washington Street to Cross Street, 1-8 mile long, 40 feet wide, estimated.

Columbia Square from Washington Street to the same, 1,390 feet long and 37 feet wide.

Cross Street from Central Street to Blossom Street, 1-8 mile long and 40 feet wide.

Dover Street from Washington Street to Grove Street, 1-2 mile long, 33 feet wide, estimated.

Forest Avenue, from Central Avenue to Washington Street (Grantville), 1 15-16 miles long, 33 feet wide, estimated.

Glen Road, from Washington Street to Weston line, by Rice's Crossing, 1 mile long and 50 feet wide, from the brook, 2,100 feet.

Grove Street, from Wellesley Square to Charles River Street, via Ridge Hill Farm, 1 7-8 miles long and 50 feet wide.

Laurel Avenue, from Forest Avenue to Washington Street, 1,214.7 feet long and 40 feet wide.

Linden Street, from Washington Street, opposite Forest Avenue, to Washington Street, 3-7 miles long, 33 feet wide, estimated.

Oakland Street from Washington Street to Wellesley Avenue, 1 7-8 miles long, with varying widths.

Pond Road from Lake Crossing to Washington Street, 1 1-5 miles long, 33 feet wide, estimated.

Pennsylvania Avenue from Forest Avenue to Town House, 330 feet long, 33 feet wide estimated.

Seaver Street, from Forest Avenue to Wellesley Avenue, 2458 feet long and 40 feet wide.

Walnut Street from Washington Street to Newton line, 7-8 mile long, 33 feet wide, estimated.

Washington Street from Lower Falls to Natick line, 4 4-7 miles long and varying widths.

Wellesley Avenue from Washington Street, Wellesley (once known as Noyes Corner) to Central Avenue at Hurd's Corner, 2 1-4 miles long, 33 feet wide, estimated.

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Wellesley Square, Wellesley.

Woodlawn Avenue, from Washington Street running northerly 1,630 feet long and 40 feet wide. (Originally Grove Street, but locally known as Fisk Lane.)

Worcester Street from Newton Upper Falls to Natick line, 5 1-6 miles long and 66 feet wide west of Washington Street, and 40 feet wide east of Washington Street.

The building of Worcester Turnpike was undertaken by a private concern about 1807 and finished and opened for toll traffic in 1810. During the War of 1812 it was used to transport merchandise to the western part of the state and New York. Within the precincts of Wellesley, at the junction of Blossom Street (Weston Road), there were two toll-gates for traffic in both directions. After the opening of the railroad in 1834 the stockholders gained permission from the Legislature to give up the company as the business did not warrant its continuance.

The first bridge was built by the county very early on the old Sherborn Road north of the present bridge on Wales Street. The labor was done by the Indians who worked for a shilling a day. The total cost of the bridge was five pounds. East Needham used the bridge for a long time until a petition to the General Court representing the great loss of time and money by the longer distance to travel resulted in a bridge being built at the upper falls of the river. Mills Bridge was later and probably took the place of this bridge, connecting Wales Street and Walnut.

In 1793 we read of a bridge near Hoogs' snuff mill in the lower falls; this was probably Pratt's Bridge, also called Flume Bridge in deeds of 1827.

In 1867 we find record of repairing done on nearly every bridge in town.

In 1872 the "Arched Culvert near Lake Crossing" was built at a cost of \$9,446.76.

In 1873 the wooden bridge at Lower Falls was rebuilt within the limit of the appropriation of \$3,000. This bridge was rebuilt in 1910.

In 1899 the bridges at Newton Upper Falls and Lower Falls were replanked.

It is uncertain when the lower part of Washington Street was first used as a public highway, but it is understood that Washington passed over it in 1789 when he made his trip through the New England States. He is said to have stopped at the well at the Pratt house which was then just east of St. John's Church and asked for a drink of water. The well has long been filled up and the Washington elm had to be cut down in 1895. In his diary Washington writes: "Friday, Nov. 6, 1789: A little after seven o'clock under great appearance of rain or snow we left Waltham and passing through Needham (5 miles therefore) breakfasted at Sherborn which is 14 miles from the former. Then passing through Holliston 5 miles, Milford 6 more, Mendon 4 more, to Uxbridge 6 more, we lodged at Taft's 1 mile further; the whole distance of this day's travel being 36 miles. From Watertown till you get near Needham the road is very level—about Needham it is hilly, then level again and the whole pleasant and well cultivated till you pass Sherborn; between this and Holliston is some hilly and rocky ground, so there is in places onward to Oxbridge; some of which are very bad. Upon the whole it may be called an indifferent road—diversified by good and bad land—cul-

## NEWTON LOWER FALLS—FACTORIES

vated and in woods—some high and bare and others low wet and piney. Grass and Indian Corn is the chief product of the farms. Rye composes a part of the culture of them but wheat is not grown on account of the blight. The roads in every part of this State are amazingly crooked, to suit the convenience of every man's fields. Also we went out of our way frequently, being often misdirected."

## NEWTON LOWER FALLS—FACTORIES

Lower Falls, to a certain extent a manufacturing village, is an old settlement. In 1703 John Leverett deeded to John Hubbard of Roxbury "four acres of land upon the Charles River at the Lower Falls, bounded on the east by a forty-acre lot belonging to Harvard College, west by the old path that leads to the wading place,—formerly the Natick path—and south by the Charles River—being the same land which the proprietors of the common and undivided land in Cambridge granted to him, and the same which has since been occupied by all the mills on the Newton side." This land John Hubbard deeded to his son Nathaniel who later sold to Jonathan Willard, the first Baptist in Newton and a "bloomer" by trade. Here in 1704 he established his first iron works. In 1718 he deeded to his son Israel his "dwelling house, barn, calash house, one-half of my saw mill and one-half of my corn mill, the fulling mill with one-half the dam that is on one side of the River with conveniences to dam across according to an agreement we have made with Ebenezer Littlefield of Newton."

In 1705 Benjamin Mills was licensed to "keep a public house near the rock marked B.M." Below at the site of the shoddy mills, Ephraim Jackson first established his business followed by William Hoogs. An iron foundry was early established near the upper privilege.

The Mills family owned and carried on manufacturing until after the middle of the eighteenth century. A conveyance was made by them to Taylor, who conveyed to Ephraim Jackson, a Newton man owning land on both sides of the river. Jackson owned a grist mill and built a paper factory on the same site that later was occupied by Walcott and Hurd as a nail factory. Hurd bought it and in 1825 sold a part to Lemuel Crehore who bought him out in 1829. Neal was with Crehore but had no financial interest. Press paper for patterns for carpets and curtains was manufactured here. But especially "bonnet board" for stiffening for the large straw bonnets which were worn so much in the first part of the last century. Jacquard was the inventor of patterns for carpets and damasks, the cards for which were manufactured here. These patterns are still used in the press work at the factory.

The firm names have been Hurd and Crehore 1828, Crehore and Neal 1834, Lemuel Crehore 1845, Lemuel Crehore and Son (George C.) 1854, Lemuel Crehore and Co. (C. F.) 1867, C. F. Crehore 1868, C. F. Crehore and Son (F. M.) 1883.

In 1790 John Ware who lived in Newton built the first paper mill at the Lower Falls, which he sold to Solomon Curtis in 1800. Mr. Curtis carried it on during his life time and later his sons and

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

grandsons. At one time the sons A. C. & W. Curtis supplied much of the book paper used in the United States. In the early 60's Cordingley bought it and it is now a shoddy mill.

Across the river from this mill and on the Wellesley side is the stone mill now idle, where Reuben Ware and William Clark in 1832 had built a machine shop. This land had been bought from Lemuel Crehore the previous year. Eaton and Moulton were later owners as well as Joseph Stow who added Adam Beck to the firm in 1858, and who finally bought out all interests in 1885 and ran it himself until it was closed in 1905. In the transfers to Beck the name of Clark still appears, evidently keeping some interests.

In 1822 Amos Lyon bought of Curtis, Nichols, and Hooper and built a paper mill on the Jackson site, where a factory had been burnt in 1814. Again burnt in 1834 it was rebuilt and sold to Wales and Mills who owned it until 1860 when it was sold to Thomas Rice Jr. Bishop bought it but never rebuilt it after it was burnt in 1894.

In 1810 Peter Lyon built a mill on the site of Benjamin Slack's fulling mill. William Lyon made paper to 1830, when he sold to William and Adolphus Durant, who sold in 1837-8 to John Rice and Crane. Rice died and Crane ran it. Thomas Rice Sr. had it in 1836 and Thomas Rice Jr. in 1866. A paper collar factory was run by Swan for a short time here. About this time H. B. Scudder interested a group of Boston financiers among whom were Dudley P. Fay, Eugene Foss, the Saltonstalls, Motleys and others. These formed a company called the Dudley Hosiery Mills Corporation and was run as such for some time. It was sold out and is now the Wellesley Knitting Mills. (These mills are next to the stone machine mills.)

A deposition made by John Slack in 1813 and recorded in Dedham says that he received the fulling mill from his father in 1784, that there were on the Needham side a grist mill, a saw mill and a fulling mill. In the transfer of this mill in the Durants' time a rag house is mentioned, also water rights and the privilege of drawing water preferable to any other mill.

The water rights today (1917) belongs to Bishop, Cordingly, Crehore, Sullivan, Wellesley Knitting Mills and the old stone mill now taxed to Grace I. Butterfield of Newtonville. The Curtises, Crehores and Rices were very important and large paper manufacturers, being very successful and up to date in their methods. The first Foudrinier machine that was used in America was set up here by the Curtises. Until wood pulp was used by the Transcript it was supplied with its paper from the Rice mills. These Rices lived on the Newton side on "Rice's" or College Hill, called by the latter name, because the story goes that at one time it was proposed to build Harvard College there.

In 1788 a dam was built by William Hoogs and Francis Wright and a mill erected at about the same time. There had been no bridge here before, and only a "wading place," mentioned in old surveys where teams were obliged to pass. (This is the present bridge

## NEWTON LOWER FALLS—FACTORIES

across the river at Washington Street and the ford can still be seen.) Paper was made on the Needham side. The various owners were Hoogs and Wright to 1810, Samuel Brown and Artemas Murdock (whose daughter married a son of Solomon Curtis) to 1811, Charles Rice to 1818, Parker and Pierce to 1836, Joseph Greenwood and Paul Dewing who rebuilt and sold to Benjamin Farliss about 1847; A. C. Curtis and Son until the Civil War, Thurston, Loring & Co., the Boston Belting Co. and since 1874 R. T. Sullivan has owned and operated it as a shoddy mill. Across the river where there is now a little park Joseph Foster had a stone mill, later operated by A. C. Wiswall and then by Wiswall Sons. Manilla, colored and hanging papers were manufactured.

Before Foster came Artemas Murdock made chocolate here.

On the Charles Rice property Henry Wood had his paint works. In 1848 his business so increased that he removed to Morse's Pond, buying out the mill rights of Samuel Morse, who had been manufacturing here since 1812. Here his descendants are successfully carrying on the paint business. In addition to this Mr. Wood undertook the making of cement for building houses. Portland cement which is now used had to be imported then and was very expensive. The result was that natural cement was used and was of a poorer quality and easily crumbled. But at this time it was an unusual method, few people understanding the process. The "Heckle house," burnt in 1910, was one of the houses built of this material.

Isaac Farwell had a silk factory on the Rice land but soon went to Nonantum. Before the watch company settled in Waltham an offer was made to Mr. Rice to buy his land, but no agreement could be made.

It is said the Ledyard Street was so named because lead was brought in here for the paint factory.

Later occupations have been, Conant and Hanchett who had a paint works, Leslie who had a cabinet shop, and Charles Rice who had a planing mill and a grist mill. At no time does it seem that the land went out of the possession of the Rice family, but that the different manufacturers leased or rented whatever part of the property they needed.

On Worcester Turnpike, Rosemary Brook—now Longfellow Pond—was dammed and a mill built by Charles Pettee in 1815 for a nail factory. A part of the land around the brook belonged to the Ephraim Ware estate, which had been left in part to the West Parish. And in behalf of the church Benjamin Slack sold it to Rice in 1825. In 1833 the town of Needham sold to Isaac Keyes thirteen acres on Worcester Street. Paper manufacturing was carried on successively by Thomas Rice, Keyes, and Luther Crane who bought out Keyes in 1836. Later Nathan Longfellow bought them out. The Cranes—Luther and Zenas—manufactured green paper shades and Longfellow paper hangings.

In 1883 the larger factories on the Wellesley side at the Falls were the Hosiery mills, the paper mills of Mr. Rice, the chemical



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

factory of Billings & Clapp—established in 1872, discontinued in 1898, Clapp having previously sold out to Edgar Billings in 1896—and in Wellesley village the shoe factory of Turner & Smart, now the Eliot, a college dormitory, and the paint factory of Mr. Woods whose production of colors increased from six pounds to six tons a day. Today (1917) there are the Wellesley knitting mills, the Sullivan shoddy mills, the mica works on the same site as the chemical works, and the Woods plant near the Natick line.

The greater part of the mills and factories have always been on the Newton side of the river, but the Curtises, the Rices, the Crehores, are names indissolubly linked with the building up of the village on both sides of the river, and the beautiful old houses in the Quinobequin valley still cluster around St. Mary's, one of the old churches of the diocese.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Durant and Solomon Curtis were the first wardens of the church.

## RAILROADS AND POST OFFICES

The Boston and Worcester steam railway was begun in 1832, the charter being granted in 1831, and for a few months in 1834 the terminus was near the present Worcester Street Bridge. The road was finished to Worcester July 3, 1835. The main line of the road was originally intended to enter the town through Newton Lower Falls, and Wellesley Hills, but the project was opposed by the community. The tremendous work of removing the "Needham" ledge took many months, the trains carrying the gravel to Boston, where a great deal of Wellesley was dumped into the Back Bay, thus helping in the establishment of that community.

The Wellesley Farms station, built in 1890, in the northeasterly part of the "Hundreds" was formerly merely a spot at which to flag a train. The first station, Rice's Crossing, was north of the bridge, instead of south. North Needham, Grantville, for a few months Nehoiden, but Wellesley Hills since 1881, and West Needham, Wellesley since 1863, are the other two stations on the main line.

The Newton Lower Falls branch was opened in January, 1846.

The changes in times and fares are not very marked, considering the improvements that have been made. It took thirty minutes to run out to Newton, the fare being thirty cents, forty cents to West Needham, sixty cents to Natick, seventy cents to Framingham, and a dollar and a half to Worcester. The fares in the first car were two-thirds of the prices in the rest of the train. In 1870 gates and gatesmen were established.

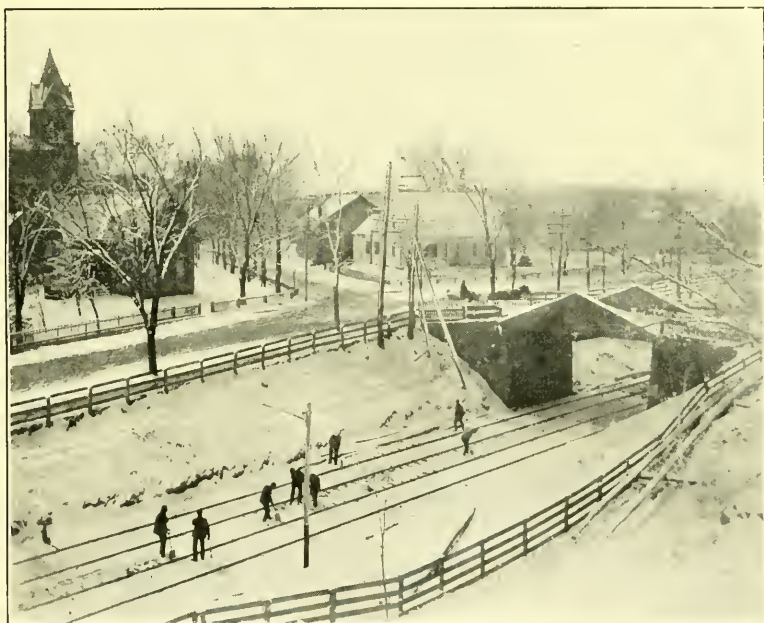
In 1869 the Rockland Street bridge was raised, and again in 1893, in order that the trans-continental trains might pass under.

The building of the present attractive railroad stations was begun in the eighties, Wellesley Hills being built in 1885.

The first post office in the town was established in 1830 with Charles Noyes, son of Parson Noyes, as postmaster in a little shop where the postmaster conducted his business, that of an optician.



OLD GRANTVILLE STATION  
(About 1881)



ROCKLAND STREET BRIDGE  
(Fast Day, 1893)





## RAILROADS AND POST OFFICES

The mail was brought once in two days by the Uxbridge coach.<sup>1</sup> It was known then as the West Needham Post Office, but since June 24, 1862, has been called Wellesley.

The post office at Wellesley Hills was established as Grantville in October, 1851, with W. H. Adams as postmaster and was kept in his house in which was also a private school. Wellesley Hills, formerly called The Port, and also North Needham, was connected with Needham by coach. Its name was changed to Grantville in 1851 after Moses Grant who presented a bell to the Congregational Church when it was built. He was a merchant of Boston particularly interested in the care of boys and in temperance reform. Not only did he help the middle village, but he also was interested in St. Mary's at the Falls, though himself a Unitarian, giving the parish \$500.00 at one time.<sup>2</sup>

The following have been the postmasters in the two villages since the establishing of the post offices: West Needham, Charles Noyes, March 4, 1830; William Flagg, July 23, 1833; Horace Blanchard, Dec. 5, 1839; William Flagg, May 18, 1841; E. P. Knight, April 17, 1861; Ezekiel Peabody, March 5, 1862; name changed to Wellesley June 24, 1862. F. W. Fuller, June 26, 1864; C. H. Mansfield, Oct. 16, 1872; William H. Flagg, June 26, 1875; Reuben K. Sawyer, Feb. 10, 1886; the office was discontinued as such and made a station of Boston Feb. 23, 1913.

The post office at Grantville was established Oct. 7, 1851, with W. H. Adams as postmaster. John Davis Sept. 13, 1852; Alvin Fuller 2d Aug. 14, 1854;<sup>3</sup> Mary P. Austin Jan. 29, 1877; the name was changed to Wellesley Hills Sept. 27, 1881; Calvin W. Smith Sept. 8, 1898; Mary C. Smith Nov. 17, 1903; discontinued as such and consolidated with Wellesley Nov. 30, 1905.

The Wellesley Farms Post Office was established in the early nineties, in a house of J. F. Wight but is now at the station under the charge of J. F. Whitney, station master. Like the other offices of Wellesley it is a station of Boston and a part of Wellesley.

<sup>1</sup> "There are three principal ways through this town, leading from Boston to Hartford, Connecticut; namely, Worcester Turnpike, through the north part; Central Turnpike, through the center; and the old Hartford Road, so called, through the south part. On the Worcester Turnpike, the great southern mail passes each way daily. Several other mail and accommodation stage coaches are very frequently passing. On the Central Turnpike, Boston and Hartford Telegraph line of stage passes every day, Sunday excepted, up one day and down the next. On the old Hartford way, the Boston, Mendon and Uxbridge daily line of stage coaches passes, and continues on to Hartford three days in the week, and returns to Boston on the other three. Thus is the Christian Sabbath a day of rest.

<sup>2</sup> "There are two Post Offices; one on the Worcester Turnpike, and the other on the Hartford road, where a mail is opened daily, Sundays excepted."

(Biglow's History of Natick, 1830.)

<sup>3</sup> Moses Grant's father was a great patriot and one of the famous Tea Party who destroyed the tea on board the "Dartmouth" and other ships on the 16th of December, 1773. In this work the party was organized in three divisions, each of which kept to its assigned duty. There was one division to raise the chests to the deck, another to break them open, and a third to throw their contents overboard. Mr. Grant's place was in the second division whose function it was to break open the chests, which

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

was done chiefly by catsticks taken from a wood-pile close at hand on the wharf. Mr. Grant used to relate an interesting incident connected with this important Tea-party. The people in the neighborhood, seeing the fatigue they were undergoing, prepared and brought to them some pails of punch. It was received courteously but not drank. The pails were passed along over the deck and their contents, like those of the open chests, poured into the sea. The patriots needed no such stimulants and scorned to use them.

(Memorial Sermon on Moses Grant.)

<sup>3</sup>A good deal has been said and some written about our own postmaster, Alvin Fuller, and much amusement has been had on account of his method of carrying and delivering mails. I would like to exhibit another side of his character. When I was in the service of the United States in the Civil War, especially when I was in prison, my parents were naturally anxious to hear any tidings from me, which came rarely indeed and with meagre detail. Whenever a letter did arrive (and no closely curious investigation was necessary to indicate the source of the letter) if my father had not put in an appearance at the station before nightfall, Mr. Fuller would hitch up his old nag after his long day's work and drive down to my house with his welcome missive; an instance of early unselfish rural delivery.

Mr. Fuller had a habit as Station Agent of coming out between the "Trains" and sitting down by the window with a paper but often dropping off to sleep. Also some of our young politicians, wise or otherwise, used the station as a place of conference, and seeing Mr. Fuller was asleep did not always adopt the "Tilden whisper," and thus Mr. Fuller's eyes being shut and his mind alert, some of their plans miscarried; why, they have not known to this day.

Mr. Fuller was also in a position to size up men who used to forget to pay for tickets, for which they had not time to settle. Mr. Fuller was kind, generous and thoughtful, and I do not believe ever injured any one through his innocent curiosity, which, of course, was widely understood. Once I carried back a postal which should have gone to Graniteville, and called Mr. Fuller's attention to the fact that it was addressed to another place, when he said, "I thought it was a queer postal to be sent to *you!*"

He would often carry letters in his hat to church on Sunday and deliver them.

## CHURCHES

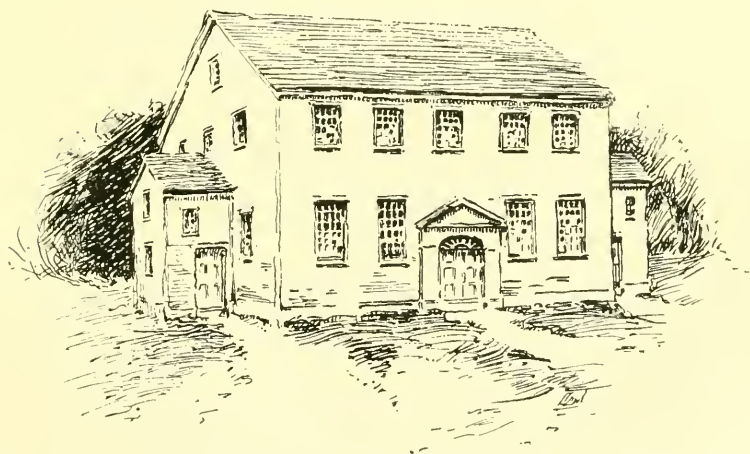
The West Precinct or Parish did not finish its meeting house until 1798, though it had been worshipped in for twenty years. The church faced Church Street which was then the main thoroughfare to North Natick. The church property was originally but a half acre of land, which had been transferred to the West Precinct by Jonathan Smith in 1774 for the sum of two pounds.

Thomas Noyes, the first pastor, served the church from 1799 to 1833. When the land exchange was made between Natick and Needham Deacon William Biglow, Major Hezekiah Broad, the Stow family, Dr. Isaac Morrill attended and after the death of Parson Badger, his widow also came to the West Needham Church. In 1805 Madam Badger (Lady Lothrop of "Oldtown Folks" fame), presented to the church a large and handsome Bible on condition that "portions of Scripture be publicly read from it usually on the Sabbath." This Bible was lost in the late fire. On her death bed she changed her will, leaving the larger part of her property to Mr. Noyes, instead of to her business manager as in a previous one. This former will was defended by Daniel Webster in 1822 in the famous Badger Will Case, and was won by him. The Noyes' tomb in the old cemetery was left by her to Mr. Noyes.

The Church, having fallen sadly in need of repair, it was voted



THIRD MEETING HOUSE  
(Destroyed by fire, Dec. 30, 1916)



THE FIRST MEETING HOUSE, WELLESLEY



## CHURCHES

that a new one be built and this was done and the building dedicated January 1835. The contract was for \$2750 plus the old building.

Again in 1869 C. B. Dana and H. F. Durant with others were put on a committee to consider the advisability of a new building. Nothing was done for a year and Mr. Durant urged further delay in order that he might consider whether the "Female Seminary" he was about to build would need pews in the church. "He, however, consented to an agreement with the society that in consideration of his subscription of \$5000.00 to the fund the Seminary should have the right at any time within five years to erect galleries in the church to accommodate at least three hundred persons, and that these galleries should be at all times for the sole and exclusive use of the teachers and scholars of said Seminary, free from any rent, tax, or any charge of any kind. Mr. Durant found soon after that it would be better for the Seminary to have a Chapel of its own, and the agreement lapsed with the close of the designated time. The present galleries were built in 1887."

The church building was dedicated July 11, 1872, and the architects were Moses Hammett and J. E. Billings, who had drawn the plans of the "Main Building" of the College, destroyed by fire March 1914. This building was destroyed by fire December 30, 1916, and many of its old keepsakes burnt.

The old building had been bought by Mr. Dana for \$1000 and moved to his land on Grove Street and made into a building suitable for a school. Later it was given to Wellesley College which kept it until 1899, renting it since 1881 to the Misses Eastman. Mr. Durant previous to 1881 used it for a normal and graduate school. Since 1899 it has been the property of Miss Helen Temple Cook.

A singing school was established March 30, 1807. In 1828 it was "voted to take the Sabbath School under the patronage of the Church"; a meeting for the study of the Bible having been carried on since May 20, 1807. In 1856 the Betsey Brown Legacy of \$6000 was received, and two years later a strip of land was bought to enlarge the cemetery. In 1878 land for a new cemetery on Great Plain Avenue was bought and in 1882 the Wellesley Hills Congregational and Unitarian Societies joined, and the Woodland Cemetery Association was incorporated. Previous to this the Village Cemetery having become too crowded, the Wares, Fullers, Lyons, Wilders, and others living in Grantville, bought lots in the Newton Cemetery in the late 60's.

The first deacons of the church were Joseph Daniel and William Biglow. Mr. Noyes' successor was Joseph W. Sessions, ordained Oct. 2, 1833, dismissed May 31, 1842; succeeded Oct. 6, 1842 by Rev. Harvey Newcomb, dismissed July 1, 1846; Andrew Bigelow, July 7, 1847 to Feb. 2, 1853; A. R. Baker, Jan. 1, 1856, dismissed 1861; George G. Phipps, Jan. 23, 1868, dismissed April 1, 1878; P. D. Cowan, April 9, 1879 to June 30, 1890; Dr. Eldridge Mix acting pastor from Jan. 1891 to June 1, 1892; Rev. Lewis W. Hicks from Dec. 13, 1892 to May 26, 1896; Rev. E. H. Chandler from April 8,



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

1897 to Oct. 31, 1900; Rev. W. W. Sleeper, the present pastor was installed May 13, 1902.<sup>1</sup>

The Congregational Church at Wellesley Hills was organized in 1847. It was an offshoot of the Wellesley Church, and commenced with thirty members, who felt that they lived too far from the other church. Meetings were held in the Railroad House (later Maugus Hall) to discuss the matter. For some time religious services were conducted in the home of W. H. Adams, who had a large hall suitable for the purpose. When the church was built in 1851 Moses Grant gave a bell to the society, hence the name Grantville.

In 1877 the church was remodelled, but a new one was greatly needed and the old one was torn down and the present one built in 1901 at a cost of about \$45,000.

The first deacons were John Batchelder and Reuel Ware. Rev. Harvey Newcomb was the first pastor from 1847-1849, and the succeeding have been William Barrows, Aug. 22, 1850—Jan. 22, 1856; Edward S. Atwood, Oct. 23, 1856—Sept. 21, 1864; Charles H. Williams, July 25, 1867—Dec. 29, 1868; James M. Hubbard, Dec. 29, 1868—Jan. 13, 1874; Jonathan Edwards, March 1, 1876—July 1894; Parris T. Farwell, 1895-1912; Carl M. Gates, Dec. 15, 1913, the present pastor.

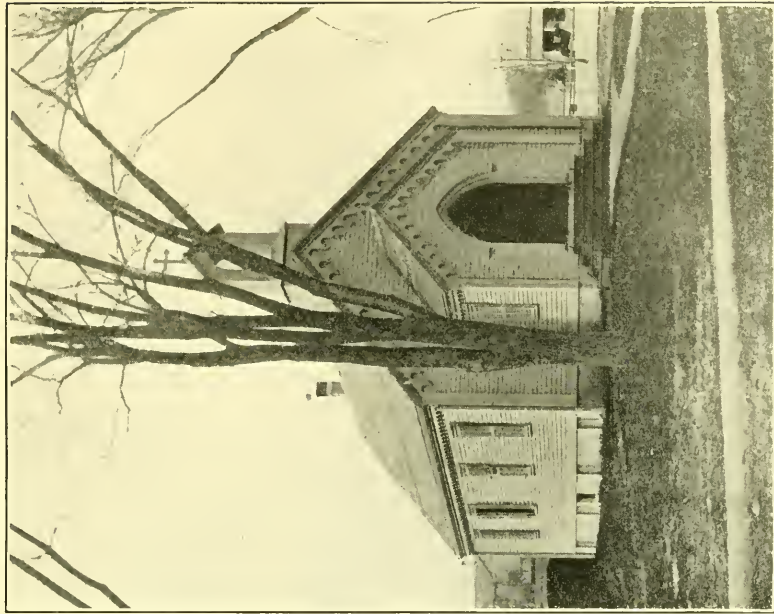
The Unitarian Society was gathered in 1869 and legally organized as a corporation Feb. 27, 1871. The Society was composed of residents of Grantville who were members of the East Needham Unitarian Church and who naturally wished for a place of worship nearer home. Among the original members were Alvin Fuller, John Sawyer and his wife, the Boydens, the Phillips family, the McIntoshes, C. R. Miles and his wife, and later the Austens and Eatons. Today it shares about equally with the Congregational Society in the new comers to the community.

When Maugus Hall was chosen as their place of worship it was the only public gathering place in the village, and after the church had been organized some of the members did not wish it used for anything but their own meetings. A lively time and some friction ensued, but it was finally settled, and in 1871 the building was bought by the Society, and used by them until 1888, when the present church was erected.

In June 1885 the name of the Society was changed from the Unitarian Society of Grantville to that of Wellesley Hills. During 1890-91 the parsonage was completed.

Rev. A. B. Vorse was their minister from 1871 to 1899. Rev. John Snyder succeeded him, resigning in 1909, followed in the same year by Rev. W. H. Ramsay, the present pastor.

In 1870 at Boyden Hall, Newton Lower Falls, at the call of Father M. X. Carroll, pastor of St. Mary's Church at Newton Upper Falls, the Catholics of the Lower Falls assembled. Services were held there until St. John's was opened April 18th, 1878, and dedicated by Archbishop Williams May 8, 1881. It ceased to be a mission of St. Mary's in 1890. Father Dolan ministered until 1885



THE OLD UNITARIAN CHURCH



THE OLD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, WELLESLEY HILLS





## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

when the Rev. Martin O'Brien was in charge until 1890. That year the Rev. Patrick H. Callanan took charge until 1911, when the present pastor, Father Knappe, who is assisted by Father Murphy, was installed.

The mission of St. John's in Wellesley village has just (1916) built a most attractive chapel, St. Paul's having worshipped in the Taylor block for a great many years and previously in the Boys' Club House on Central Street.

A Methodist Church was built in Pine Plain (later known as Unionville and now Wellesley Fells) on land given by William Bogle. Jesse Lee from the South, founder of Methodism in New England, preached in the West Parish Oct. 6th, 1791 the first Methodist sermon in Needham and aroused much interest. The "Hundreds Meeting House" so-called, was erected in 1798 and preaching, largely by circuit ministers, was maintained for forty years. George Pickering was the first preacher, a man of power and fame in his later ministry. Father Isaac Jennison was also stationed in the Needham circuit. William Bogle, who lived just across the line in Weston was a Methodist leader. In 1792 the Needham Circuit covered all the territory between Boston and Worcester.

The Church has since been moved and is owned and lived in by John Cavanagh. Among the early names were Stevens, Mansfield, Fisk, Harrington, Bogle, Jenison, Pierce who gradually left and helped to build churches in Natick and Weston nearer their own homes.

In 1892 a confirmation service, conducted by Bishop Brooks was held in the Wellesley Congregational Church and in 1894 (land having been purchased in 1892) St. Andrew's parish in Wellesley dedicated their church. Previous to that services had been held in the Lower Town Hall, and the old Waban block—land was purchased in 1892. Their pastors have been the Rev. W. E. Hayes, to 1901, Rev. George Natrass to 1913 and Rev. Ellis B. Dean the present rector.

The old church of St. Mary's at the Falls is across the line in Newton, but around it cluster many happy and sacred memories of church celebrations when candles and music at Christmas time were used there and nowhere else in the vicinity. The Curtises, Rices, Crehores, Leslies, Pulsifers, Springs, on either side of the river have been and are communicants.

<sup>1</sup> For the history of the Wellesley Church see Mr. Chandler's book.

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The earliest schools were taught in private houses wherever it was most convenient, and until 1795 the school houses were owned by proprietors, with but little reference to them in the town records.

The following early votes recorded in the town book are of interest, showing the intention of the town and at the same time the inability or lack of energy to carry out the votes. In some cases the work may have been done, but the record does not show it.

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Aug. 1th, 1714 it was voted Matthus Tamline and John Fisher should teach children to read and write.

Jan. 14th, 1719 it was voted to set up a "Schoole for the teaching of children for some time during the year and that there should be a rate made of six pounds for the support of the School. It was voted to chuse a committee to look after a parcel of land given for the support of the school by Mr. Timothy Dwight. Also that the school should be a moving school kept at three places convenient."

Dec. 11th, 1721 it was voted to treat with Mr. Daniel Fisher for teaching school 15 weeks for 8fs.

Mar. 13, 1721 voted that the Selectmen should "consider and take prudent care to uptain a schoole in ye best manner for ye good of the town and advantage of children and granted 6fs for ye charge of ye schoole."

Oct. 30, 1722 to see what the town should do to uptain a school and a rate or 10fs granted.

Jan. 18, 1723 £5 were given by the late Samuel Woodbridge for school, the money was let out at interest.

Nov. 19, 1723 the selectmen discussed schools in their meeting.

Nov. 29, 1723 voted to have a school.

Until 1725 the east part of the town probably had the use of the money and teachers were provided for that part rather than in the west. But on January 11, 1725 £15 was granted and the inhabitants of the West End, The Leg, were to have their share of the money to maintain "a Schoole amongst them." It was also voted "that there should be a school kept in four parts of the town, viz: one near the house of John Smith, one near the house of Ephraim Ware, Sen., (who lived near Rosemary Brook now Long-fellow's Pond) one near the house of Deacon Woodcock, and another near that of Joshua Smith. Stephen Bacon was to receive the money belonging to the west end of the Town for the benefit of a school for the year 1725.

On May 6, 1728 a petition signed by Josiah Kingsbury and twenty-four other men living in the west part of the town was presented, and "they pledged themselves to pay William Chubb if he would build a school house on the county road middle way between the houses of Nathaniel Bullard and Henry Pratt." There were seventy-six subscribers, and they contributed thirty-one pounds six shillings. Such a house was built and stood on what is now Linden Street, Wellesley Hills near the site of the house owned by the Livermores.

On July 29, 1730, Capt. Robert Cooke, John Smith, Robert Fuller, Josiah Kingsbury and Andrew Dewing were chosen to answer a petition of the "Westerly inhabitants of Needham to the General Court for a schoole." Twenty pounds were voted. This was the first school house in Wellesley village and stood near the A. B. Clarke house (formerly Solomon Flagg).

A districting of the schools in 1790 resulted as follows: Great Plain, Fisher's School, The Centre Brick School, the district near the Upper Falls, the Lower Falls district, the West End District, the

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

school by the West Meeting House; the last three and the Centre Brick Schools being in this part of the town. The West End District ("Needham Leg") was soon to be incorporated into Natick. The Centre Brick School was near an old tree stump which is on the Town Farm land and within the precincts of Wellesley.

In 1804 the proportion of the \$600 voted for the schools by the town resulted in the West School near the Meeting House having \$133.89 and the Lower Falls \$89.89. There were frequent requests for a larger school in the West End and finally May 29, 1809 the petition was granted. In 1811 we find a record which seems to indicate that the land on which the school had previously stood belonged to the town.

The site of the North School boasts of three school buildings, besides the present one, the first reaching back to a very early date was a black, unpainted building sold about 1833, and moved to the land near the W. C. Norcross house. The second was bought by General Rice in 1842 and is on Columbia Road back of the Catholic Church; and the third is the double house on the corner of Washington Street and Lower Crescent, bought by William Heckle, forty or more years ago.

In Wellesley Fells, then Pine Plain, the first record of a school, after many petitions for one in the "northwest," is as recent as 1854, with Miss Hannah J. Ware as the first teacher.

March 9, 1741 it was voted "to allow those persons on the other side of Natick Brook their part of the school money for this year provided they lay it out for schooling among themselves."

In 1836 the records seem to indicate that a School Committee was first chosen as distinct from the Selectmen. Before that there had been prudential committees for each district of the town, and this was still kept up. In 1843 the town voted that each school district appoint its own prudential committee.

In 1824 the following money was voted for the schools: to the West School \$137.69, Lower Falls, \$143.31, Upper Falls \$22.54, South \$99.73, Plain, \$111.96, Brick \$84.88, totalling \$600.11.

In 1836 for the North District \$235.92, for the West \$216.92, for the South \$111.17, for Great Plain \$133.46, for the Centre \$141.70, and for the East \$100.89, a total of \$940.

In 1843, for the North School \$291.07, West \$282.50, South, \$147.46, Plain \$204.23, Centre \$193.68, Upper Falls, \$143.06, a total of \$1262. In 1850, \$337.27 was voted to West School, \$335.10 to the North, \$280.93 to the Center, \$211.90 to the East, \$213.81 to the Great Plain and \$203.33 to the South. In that year there were 387 children in the town from five to fifteen years of age, divided as follows: 73 for the North School, 56 for the East, 93 for the West, 50 for the South, 69 for the Center, and 46 for the Great Plain.

In 1857 winter graded schools were mentioned.

A law passed in 1862 by the General Court requiring high schools in towns of five hundred or more families resulted in the establishing of two in Needham one in the east and one in the west. The one in the west was taught alternate half years in Wellesley

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

and Grantville. In Wellesley in Nehoiden Hall, in Grantville in Mangus Hall, later the Unitarian Chapel. The school was later removed to the building in Grantville erected for a school in 1854, which in 1875 was rebuilt and named the Shaw school in honor of the donor of the clock, bell and globe, Mr. John W. Shaw. In Wellesley the school was removed to the building erected on the site of the present Hunnewell school, now Fiske cottage on the College grounds, which was bought from the town by Mrs. Joseph N. Fiske of Boston and given to the College in memory of her husband. Very soon however the school took up its abode in the Shaw building, moving twice since—to the building on Seaward Place in 1894 and in 1907 to its present quarters on Kingsbury Street.

The principals have been T. W. H. Hussey '66 to '67, G. F. Robinson '67 to '69, A. B. Putnam one term in '69, J. H. Noyes '74 to '75, Miss Charlotte Cameron and Miss Julia Jennings '74 to '76, C. E. Washburn '76 to '81, F. O. Baston '81 to '86, S. L. Brown '86 to 1916 and the present principal J. A. Davis 1916.

A list, of course incomplete, is given of the very early teachers copied from the town records. In some cases the time and money paid is recorded, more often it is not. Often the teachers boarded themselves.

- Dec. 1735, 4£s for keeping school 4 weeks to Francis Very at westerly school house.
- 1765 school at Edes House.
- 1767 school near Jona. Smith's.
- 1767 school near Lt. Fisher's.
- 1769 bill to Joseph Drury £s 2 for his wife for keeping school in West End two months.
- 1769 to Mrs. Mary Newell £ 2-2-8 for keeping school 8 weeks in school house near Ephraim Bullard's.
- 1770 Hannah Collier kept school near the Metcalf's
- 1770 John Butler near Lower Falls.
- 1770 Rich. Evans in Westerly part.
- 1770 to Ephraim Bullard for boarding and paying Jeremiah Cowell.
- 1770 to Lt. Ebenezer Fisher for paying and keeping John Butler.
- 1771 to Abigail Fisher for school near Lt. Fisher.
- 1770 Robert Fuller, Jr. 3 months at Brick School. 7-4.
- 1771 Sarah Pratt Lower Falls 8 weeks. 2-2-8
- 1771 Hannah Collier 12 months West School. 2-16
- 1771 William Scales 2 months West End 15s
- 1771 Widow Cheney Brick 1-12
- 1771 Beulah Solemn 8 weeks West 1-17-4
- 1772 Widow Martha Denney 3 months West 3.
- 1772 Money voted for the Brick School House near Mr. M. Farris.
- 1772 William Fuller 5 weeks at Lower Falls 3.
- 1772 Hannah Blake 6 weeks & 3 days at Pine Plain at Mr. Leverett 1-6
- Jonathan Kingsbury at Brick School 1 month & 4 days 2-9-9
- 1774 Joseph Kingsbury, Jr. at Lower Falls

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- 1784 Joseph Ware West School 10 months 6-15
- 1785 Joseph Kingsbury—14 weeks at Aaron Smith's
- 1786 Dorothy Ware at Brick School £3—12 weeks.
- 1787 Samuel Wilson, West School.
- 1789 Lydia Drury, West School.  
Robert Fuller, Brick 10 weeks 5-5  
Mr. Holland West  
Eliz. Smith, West 12 weeks £ 3
- 1790 Robert Fuller, Brick 10 weeks—10 £s.  
Sally Townsend, Brick 14 weeks £s 2
- 1791 John Hunt, West  
Jona. Kingsbury, Brick £s 6 10 weeks  
Sally Slack, Lower Falls, 10 weeks £s 2  
Sarah Bacon, West  
Lucy Smith, West
- 1792 Chloe Felt, Brick £ 2-8 16 weeks
- 1792 Jona Kingsbury, Brick £ 5-8
- 1793 Hannah Deming, Brick 1-13 11 weeks.
- 1794 Sally Bacon, West
- 1794 Sarah Kingsbury, Brick  
Samuel Cooledge, West
- 1794 Gibeon Hooker was paid for room for school in Lower Falls.
- 1795 Moses Kingsbury, West  
Sally Bacon, West
- 1795 Moses Kingsbury, West
- 1795 Robert Fuller, Brick  
Joseph Kingsbury, Brick  
Jonathan Bacon, Jr. West  
Moses Kingsbury, Jr. West  
Sarah Bacon, West  
Sally Greenwood at Pine Plain
- 1796 Arthur Train, Lower Falls
- 1796 Eunice Keith, Lower Falls £16 12 weeks boarding herself.
- 1796 Lucy Kingsbury, Brick £12 12 weeks
- 1796 Wm. Leverett, West near church.
- 1796 Col. Jonathan Kingsbury, Brick.
- 1796 Jona. Bacon, West
- 1796 £216 was voted to the prop. of West End School district  
for their school house.
- 1797 Ephraim Jackson's wife at his house at Lower Falls.

A list of more recent teachers who have been or are residents of the town includes Mary Jane Dix, Charlotte Sawyer, Abigail Ware, Peter Lyon, Hezekiah Fuller, John J. Marshall, Olivia Olmsted, Solomon Flagg, Jane F. Flagg, Harriet D. Adams, Calvin French, Sarah Bird Kingsbury, Emily Kingsbury, Sophronia Kingsbury, L. Allen Kingsbury, Charlotte Kingsbury, Marian Russell, Fanny Kingsbury, Malvinah Tenney, Mary Tenney, Harriet Sawyer, Sarah Southwick, Anna Shurtleff, Eliza Shurtleff, Carrie Dewing, H. A. F. Grant, Mary Longfellow, Carrie Rugg, Mary Mason, Jennie Bates, F. O. Baston,



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

C. E. Washburn, Alice Phillips, Edith Phillips, Helen Webster, Mary Field, Mary Fuller, Susan Monk, Charlotte Cameron, Nellie Cope, Mary Valentine, Seldon Brown, Vina Huzzey.

Among the books used during the first part of the last century were the New Preceptor, Allen's Geography, Colburn's Arithmetic, Cumming's Geography and Atlas, Cumming's Spelling Book, Worcester's Geography and Atlas, Leavitt's Easy Lessons, Walker's Dictionary, Temple's Arithmetic, Whelpley's Compendium, Woodbridge's Geography and Atlas, Adam's Arithmetic, Marshall's Writing Book, Olney's Geography and Atlas, Paley's Small Geography, Comstock's Philosophy, Blake's Natural Philosophy.

Bills have been found, showing that various ministers of the town visited the schools during the summer, and also took the census.

In 1846 we read of medical inspection in the schools.

### PRIVATE SCHOOLS

There have been several private schools in the west part of the town, one kept by Miss Thayer as early as 1820, and another considerably later by a Mr. Roberts in the "Murilla Williams house" originally owned by Amos Lyon and then opposite Glen Road. Another was kept by W. H. Adams and his wife and sister-in-law Miss Pettingill for young ladies and misses. This was from 1848 to 1852. Sam Pettingill, who later was the first to have an advertising agency, was also an assistant.

The following advertisement copied from the "Christian Witness" of Sept. 8, 1837 is a description of a school in the vicinity:

#### High School at Newton Lower Falls

The next Quarter of eleven weeks will commence on Wednesday 20 Sept. The delightful situation healthfulness and quietness of the village in which this school is situated the correct and industrious habits of the people their well-known politeness and courtesy to strangers will (it is presumed) serve to attract scholars from abroad. Instruction will be given in the branches usually taught in our best schools and Academies. Board reasonable. No scholars received for less than a quarter without special agreement.

#### Terms.

English branches \$6 in advance.

Latin, French or Greek \$1 additional.

Music \$10. Use of piano \$2. Daily lesson in singing gratis.

#### References.

Rev. A. L. Baurý, Dr. E. Nichols, Messrs. A. C. & W. Curtis, Messrs. L. Crehore & B. Neal, and Christian Witness office.

C. Abbot, Master.

Newton Lower Falls Aug 27 1837

5w

## WELLESLEY COLLEGE

The Christian Witness Dec. 28 1838 again advertises—

The Subscriber being engaged as a teacher at Newton Lower Falls, will be happy to receive into his family a few Boys to board and instruct in the different branches of the English language.

Refer to—

Calvin Park D. D.	}	Stoughton
Jesse Pierce		
Samuel Tollman		
Rev. T. M. Clark, Boston or		
Rev. A. L. Baury, Newton L F		

Quincy Adams,  
Master

Dec W 28.

Miss Farley had a small school in the house near Wellesley Hills square now occupied by the Pierson family and owned by Isaac Sprague.

Miss Shurtleff taught in the vestry of the Grantville Congregational Church, followed by Miss Emma Fuller.

But Dana Hall, long in the hands of the Misses Eastman and now under the management and ownership of Miss Cooke has long had a widespread reputation as a college preparatory and finishing school. Originally intended as a part of Wellesley College it soon became a school under separate control. The principal building, Dana Hall, was the second church edifice in Wellesley, and given to the college by C. B. Dana. It was leased by the Misses Eastman from the college, but in 1899 was bought by Miss Cooke, who has added greatly to the school plant.

## WELLESLEY COLLEGE

More than passing notice should be paid to the College which derives its name from the town. Wellesley College was founded by Henry Fowle Durant who was born in Hanover, N. H., February 20, 1822. He was graduated from Harvard in 1841 and admitted to the bar in 1843. In 1854 he married Pauline Adeline Fowle, daughter of Col. John Fowle of the United States Army. The death of his son at the age of eight years greatly influenced his life and turned the direction of his talents to Christian service. In this he was most efficiently aided by his wife, who has always proved a great helper and friend to the Christian education of young women in every class in life. Their decision to found an institution devoted to the higher education of young women resulted in Wellesley College which at his express desire does not bear the founder's name.

The College is situated on Lake Waban and its grounds contain over three hundred acres of meadow and woodland, with a mile of frontage on the lake.

On August 18, 1871 the first stone was put in the ground and

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

September 14, the corner-stone was laid by Mrs. Durant and the structure of the main building was begun.

The many buildings, the Memorial Chapel, the Library, Music Hall, Billings Hall, Stone Hall, the Farnsworth Art Building, the cottages on "the hill," the quadrangle with its new dormitories, the new gymnasium, and other buildings, including society houses, the heating and lighting plants, gardener's house, testify in their evidence of expansion to the wisdom and foresight of the founder.

On September 8, 1875, the main building was opened with about three hundred students, and twenty-nine professors and teachers. Today there are over fifteen hundred students and nearly three hundred officers of instruction and administration. Miss Ada L. Howard, the first president, was followed in 1881 by Miss Alice Freeman who resigned in 1887 to marry Prof. George Herbert Palmer. Her influence and memory are among the richest endowments of the college. Miss Freeman was succeeded by Miss Helen A. Shafer who died in office in 1894. Her presence was gracious and dignified and her work of the highest academic value to the college. Mrs. Julia Irwin was acting president until succeeded by Miss Caroline Hazard who in resigning in 1910 has given place to Miss Ellen Fitz Pendleton.

"Mr. Durant died at Wellesley Oct. 3, 1881, ten years after the laying of the corner-stone. From the beginning of the undertaking his cares had been unrelenting, his labors great and incessant. With untiring energy he devoted himself day and night to the most minute details incident to the foundation and establishment of a great seat of learning. Not only during his work of planning and construction, but for the six years between the opening of the college and his death he gave the whole strength of his soul, mind and body to it. The result was inevitable, that so putting his life into his college he should lay down his life for it. He had lived to see, if not the full accomplishment of his purpose, yet more than is given most men to see of the fruit of their labors. He had seen an idea dear to him take root, gather material forces around it, merge from the darkness, make itself known, recognized, felt, a power in the world."

"Never," says Dr. Howard Crosby, "was any great institution more completely the work of one man. To Mr. Durant belongs the credit of the plan and the execution as well as the pecuniary gift."

The endowment and building fund raised after the burning of the main building in March, 1914 is the greatest proof of the loyalty of its alumnae and the belief of the community at large of its great usefulness and future.

Mrs. Durant died February 12, 1917, after a long life of Christian activities.

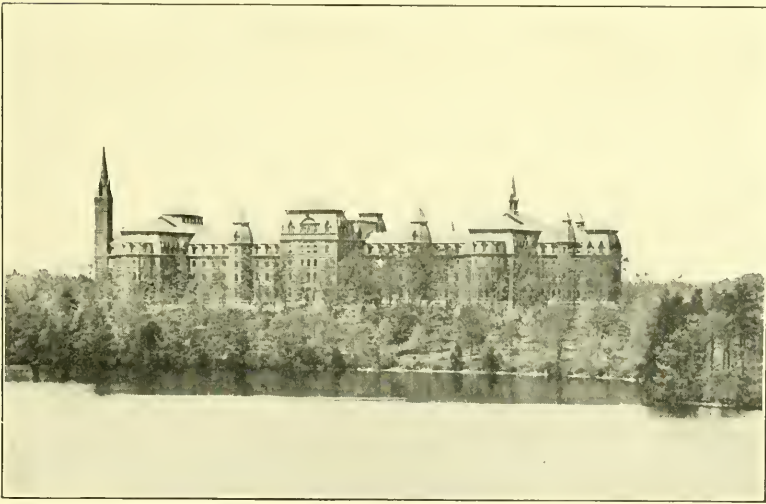
## WELLESLEY IN THE WARS

In the French and Indian Wars we find plentiful proof of the patriotism and bravery of the inhabitants in the little town and records of their help and assistance.





WELLESLEY SQUARE BEFORE 1875



WELLESLEY COLLEGE  
(Main building destroyed by fire, March, 1911)



## WELLESLEY IN THE WARS

We read of William Chub and Henry Dewing, in Captain Jonathan Prentiss' Roll June 24, 1676; of Benjamin Mills in Capt. Thomas Brattle's Roll in Service, Aug. 24, 1676, Feb. 9, 1712, a Muster Roll of the Garrison posted at Oxford under Sergeant Samuel Hay contains accounts of wages to Sergeant John Fisher in care of Natick Indians, etc.; also July 22, 1713 another warrant issued for 12-12-2 wages to Sergeant John Fisher of Needham. In 1746 the town "voted money for ammunition for the present war." There is a long list of soldiers in The French War in 1759. Dec. 28, 1764 a bill was paid to Alex Shephard of £ 1-2-10 for rent of his house for French Neutrals until said neutrals went out of said house. This harboring of the French arose from a mandate issued by the colony to that effect.

The trouble with the Indians was not concerned with land as much as with the arrogance and dislike shown them by the whites. As hostilities advanced Col. Moseley's soldiers, English rather than colonists, were more and more brutal and unjust, creating greater hatred among the Indians. Many of the Christian Indians, however, remained friendly and served as spies and scouts. Forty under Neapanet, their Indian captain, were in Captain Henchman's company, fought at Hassanamasett—(Grafton) and "proved eminently faithful and serviceable." As an instance of their assistance we read that in April 1675 Waban warned Col. Gookin, who had been made superintendent of the Indians of Massachusetts, that the Wampawags intended mischief and were only waiting for the trees to leave out,—advice which was found to be correct.

Many of the Natick Indians who had been sent to Deer Island were brought back to aid the English and proved faithful and honest. The west part of Dedham was not attacked, though Sudbury, Medfield and near-by towns were aided by the friendly Indians and inhabitants.

During the trouble with England and the colonies before the Revolution we read in the town records in Needham that the town put in its warrant an article Dec. 4, 1773, "to see if the Town will choose a Committee to join with the Committee of Correspondence of the town of Boston Relating to the Importation of Tea." The article was not adopted, but the interest was certainly manifested. On the 31st day of August 1774 notice was given the Inhabitants of the Town of Needham "Met and assembled together who then did elect and appoint:

Captain Eleazer Kingsbury	} <i>a committee</i>
Captain Lemuel Pratt	
Mr. Jonathan Dewing	
Mr. Samuel Daggett	
Captain Caleb Kingsbury	

to attend a County Convention at the House of Mr. Woodward, Inn holder in Dedham, on Tuesday the sixth day of September next at ten o'clock before noon, to Deliberate and Determine upon all matters as the Distressed Circumstances of the Province may Require."

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Later, Eleazer Kingsbury was chosen Representative to the Provincial Congress at Concord on the 2nd Tuesday in Oct. 1774, and again Feb. 1, 1775 at Cambridge. William McIntosh was sent to the Congress at Watertown May 31, 1775.

June 24, 1776 the town voted "to instruct and advise their present Representative that if the Honorable Congress for the Safety of the United Colonies declare their independence of the Kingdom of Great Britain that they the same inhabitants will solemnly engage with their lives and fortunes to support them in ye measure."

Other interesting entries include the following: Feb. 17, 1777, the town voted a sum of money to each man that shall enlist in the Continental Army for three years and "to make up to those men who have done a term for themselves or part of a term personally." Aug. 4, 1777 twenty pounds were voted to each person who had gone to "Canady."

A committee was chosen to take care of the families of the Continental Soldiers.

Oct. 14, 1779, 3,000 pounds were voted in addition to the 4000 pounds already granted in support of the present war.

Dec. 27, 1780 it was voted to raise money for beef ordered by the General Court.

3,000 pounds was voted to hire men to fill out their quota.

In the war Needham took an active part, furnishing three companies for the battle of Lexington, two coming from the west side. Five of the Needham men were killed in the battle, Needham "suffering more severely than any town except Lexington." Ephraim Bullard kept a tavern on the Sherborn Road near the entrance of the college and where in 1911 a tablet was erected. "Bullard went up on a hill near by, and discharged a gun three times as a signal. Great fires were made in the house and bullets moulded, the women assisting in the work. The men were supplied and sent off as soon as possible. It is said that the West Needham men reached the scene of conflict a little in advance of the East Company, having received the alarm earlier."

The following is the list of the names of the men composing the West Needham companies:

"A Roll of Capt. Aaron Smith's Company of militia who marched in consequence of the alarm made on the 19th of April last, in the Regiment whereof William Heath, Esq., was then Colonel as follows:

(The figures after the names denote the days served.)

Aaron Smith, Capt. 15  
Josiah Upham, Ensign 9  
Joseph Daniell, Sergt., 11.  
Jonathan Smith, Corp., 13.  
William Fuller, Sergt., 11.  
Moses Bullard, Lieut., 13.

John Bacon, Sergt., 5.  
Samuel Kilton, Sergt., 5.  
Enoch Kingsbury, Corp., 5.  
Jeremiah Daniell, Corp., 11.  
Joseph Drury, Corp., 8.  
Joseph Mudy, drummer, 10.

# WELLESLEY IN THE WARS

## Privates

Jona. Whittemore, Jr., 8.	Samuel Baley, 6.
Isaac Bacon, 8.	Daniel Huntting, Jr., 2.
David Trull, 5.	Moses Daggett, 15.
Lemuel Brackett, 5.	Daniel Ware, 10.
John Slack, 4.	Samuel Daggett, Sergt., 4.
John Smith, Jr., 11.	Benj. Mills, Jr., 14.
Joseph Hawes, 14.	Samuel Pratt, 15.
William Kingsbury, 7.	Samuel Woodcock, 10.
Timothy Huntting, 12.	Jeremiah Smith, 11.
Seth Broad, 9.	Joseph Hawes, Jr., 9.
Jonathan Kingsbury, 13.	Ebenezer Huntting, 9.
Joseph Kingsbury, 13.	Jeremiah Edes, 8 .
Jonathan Dunn, 9.	Moses Huntting, 8.
Issachar Pratt, 4.	Jonathan Huntting, 5.
Philip Floyd, 8.	Aaron Smith, Jr., 9.
Samuel McIntire, 2.	Amos Edes, 8.
Peter Jenison, 5.	Samuel Smith, 5.
John Bullard, 5.	Collins Edes, 5.
Eliphilet Kingsbury, Jr., 9.	Ithamar Smith, Jr., 7.
John Smith, 3rd, 8.	Abner Felt, 4.
John Fuller, 4.	Timothy Bacon, 8.
Uriah Collier, Jr., 7.	Solomon Flagg, 5.
Moses Bacon, 7.	Jos. Kingsbury, Jr., 5.
William Huntting, 8.	Jeremiah Gay, 5.
Noah Millard, 2.	Luke Mills, 7.
Stephen Bacon, Jr., 11.	Seth Pratt, 7.
Moses Fuller, 9.	Israel Hunting, 7.
Samuel Brackett, 11.	Samuel Ward, 8.
Zebadiah Pratt, 6.	Abiel Smith—(Natick) 2.

Total amount £50 7s 2d of.

Aaron Smith, Capt.

"Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, Mar. 15th, 1776, Captain Aaron Smith, above named, made oath to the truth of the above will by him subscribed, according to the best of his knowledge, before Samuel Holten, Jus. Peace thro. the Colony."

"This copy hath been compared with the original thereof and agrees therewith.

Josiah Johnson	{	Comm.
Jonas Dix		

"Read and allowed and thereupon ordered, that a warrant be drawn on the treasurer, for £50 7s 2d in full discharge of the within roll.

Perez Morton D-Sec'y."

"A muster Roll of the Travel and Service of a Company of Minute Men in Needham under the command of Caleb Kingsberry,

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

in Col. Davis' Regiment that marched in consequence of the Alarm made on the 19th of April, 1775, which is as follows,—viz:

Caleb Kingsberry, Capt., 2.	Thomas Hall, Corpl., 5.
Eleazer Kingsbury, 2nd Lt.	John Bacon, 1st Lieut., killed, 1.
wounded, 2.	Daniel Gould, Sergt., 5.
Samuel Daggett, Sergt., 4.	Isaac Underwood, Sergt., 2.
Ephraim Stevens, Sergt., 8.	Samuel Daniell, Cor., 1.
Samuel Brown, Corpl., 5.	Ephraim Bullard, drummer, 5.

### Privates

Ezekiel Richardson, 8.	Elijah Houghton, 2.
Joseph Mudy, 1.	Jesse Kingsbury, 1.
Josiah Ware, 1.	Henry Dewing, 7.
David Hall, 1.	Stephen Hunting, 8.
Jacob Parker, 8.	Jonathan Smith, 1.
David Smith, 2.	Moses Felt, 2.
Isaac Goodenow, Jr., 15.	Thomas Discomb, 4.
Samuel Greenwood, 2.	Abijah Mills, 11.
Theodore Brown, 5.	Josiah Lyon, 2.
Nathaniel Kingsbury, 2.	John Edes, Jr., 2.
Amos Mills (killed), 1	Nathaniel Chamberlain, Killed
Seth Wilson, 6.	Ithamar Smith, 8.
Henry Gale, 7.	Nehemiah Mills, Jr., 9.
David Hagar, 6.	Jonas Mills, 7.
John Fuller 2	

Needham, March 24, 1776.

Caleb Kingsberry

"Colony of the Mass. Bay, March 15, 1776. Captain Caleb Kingsberry within named, made solemn oath to the truth of the within roll by him subscribed to the best of his knowledge, before Samuel Holten, Justice Peace thro' the Colony."

"Compared with the original and therewith agrees.

"E. Stark

"Jno. Turner, Com."

"Read and allowed and ordered that a warrant be drawn on the Treasurer, for 16. IVs 10½d., in full of the within roll.

"Perez Morton, D. Sec'y."

The East Company was under the command of Captain Robert Smith, in Colonel William Heath's regiment and contained seventy-five men, two of whom were killed.

In 1851 in the old cemetery in Needham a monument was raised to the memory of those killed. Upon it is inscribed:

## WELLESLEY IN THE WARS

In  
Memory  
of  
John Bacon,  
Amos Mills,  
Elisha Mills,  
Jona' Parker  
and  
N. Chamberlain  
who fell  
at  
Lexington  
April 19, 1775  
for  
Liberty they died  
at last.

Amos Mills was the only man living within the present precincts of Wellesley who was killed at Lexington. He lived in the place formerly owned by Abijah Stevens on Webster Road.<sup>1</sup>

Ephraim Stevens hearing the alarm left his oxen standing in the field and went to Lexington. Abel Stevens tells of his grandmother telling him that her mother by putting her ear to the ground could hear the firing beyond Sudbury. Ephraim belonged to the old Colonial Guards who were ready to fight against the British at any moment.

Lieutenant John Bacon, about whom there seem to be more data obtainable than any of the others was buried at Menotomy under another name. The day of the fight he must have started very early as his horse returned by ten o'clock in the morning. He was with Elisha Mills and Christopher Mills behind a stone wall when he looked over it, and was shot. His son, John, who served throughout the war, went for his clothes the next day and discovered them in the schoolhouse.

The town furnished three hundred men as soldiers in the War of the Revolution,—a large percentage of the whole population which was then only about one thousand. The community was always prompt in raising money to encourage the army, in voting bounties to men who should enlist, in sending delegates to provincial congresses and in furnishing clothes, food, ammunition, and in caring for the soldiers' families.

Needham men fought during the War at the siege of Boston, at Dorchester Heights, in Canada and New York, at Castle Island, and wherever they were called.

Joseph Ware, an orderly sergeant and recruiting officer during the War, was the author of a journal of the expedition to Quebec under Gen. Arnold, 1775-6, and was at the battles of Concord and Ticonderoga.<sup>2</sup>

Minute Men were recommended by vote of the town in 1794, to be trained in possible anticipation of any outbreak.



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

In 1802 the town paid for its share in a parade at Walpole. July 20, 1812, the town voted that those soldiers called out in May should be paid, if in actual service.

In 1815, the town voted that seven dollars a month should be paid to soldiers who were detached in 1814.

The town maintained a powder house, and owned and distributed ammunition for several years; but finally voted to sell the house.

There were very few in actual service during the War of 1812, and as they were scattered through various companies it is very hard to trace them.

Sept. 22, 1814, a Company of Exempts was organized with a constitution carefully drawn up, in which they declared their allegiance to their country and desire to aid her whenever necessary. They went with the two militia companies organized about 1798 to listen to religious exhortation by Stephen Palmer Nov. 17, 1814, at the East Meeting House. Daniel Ware was captain, Major Ebenezer McIntosh was lieutenant, Lieut. Moses Garfield was ensign, the chaplains were the Rev. Stephen Townsend and the Rev. Thomas Noyes, and the surgeon Dr. Isaac Morrill. There were over sixty members of the company. On the day of the religious services the two militia companies, the East being captained by Elisha Lyon, and the West by Jonathan Fuller, paraded and then were joined by the company of exempts who showed an excellent training and spirit. "Captain Fuller's company carried an elegant standard which had been presented by the ladies of the West Parish."

The history of the town during the Civil War is the history of the nation itself—the rising of the younger generation who joined the new party often against the wishes and even commands of their elders. The great number of men who enlisted and won honor and glory, and met bravely sickness, imprisonment and death during those four years of horror, testify to the patriotism and loyalty of the northern blood equalled only by the southern devotion to their own viewpoint.

The McClellan riot in Maugus Hall stands out as unparalleled in the history of the town, (For brief description see page 81.)

In 1851 the town of Needham put itself on record as opposing the fugitive slave law and in 1854 as against the Nebraska bill.

In 1851 and for subsequent years up to the Civil War, a list of the soldiers in the town was recorded. The number the first year was 258, and the average was about the same.

From year to year throughout the war, bounties were granted to all men who enlisted, and state aid was given to their families. After the war the town voted that a G. A. R. Post be established and that land be given by the town for that purpose.

The Memorial Day address given by Samuel B. Noyes of Milton, May 30, 1872, at Needham Plain follows:

"Some here today may remember the thrill of patriotism which stirred you when, at the first town meeting held in Needham to consider matters relating to the War of the Rebellion, on the 29th of April, 1861, one common purpose seemed to inspire the people.

## WELLESLEY IN THE WARS

A military committee of four persons was chosen to 'take the general supervision in all matters of detail in relation to forming a company in the town, procuring volunteers, providing for the comfort of the soldiers' families and other necessary matters;' and for these purposes this committee were authorized to draw upon the treasury of the town to the aggregate amount of two thousand dollars. The gentlemen chosen as this committee were E. K. Whittaker, C. B. Patten, Benjamin G. Kimball, and Calvin Perry.

Eight thousand dollars were appropriated as a war fund, from which the Selectmen were authorized to draw money to carry out the votes of the town. The Selectmen of the town during the years 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864 and 1865 were Galen Orr, Silas G. Williams, Augustus Stevens. The Town Clerk and Town Treasurer during the same years was Solomon Flagg.

1862, July 24th, Voted to pay a bounty of two hundred dollars to each volunteer who enlists for three years, and is mustered in and credited to the quota of the town; and the treasurer was authorized to borrow six thousand six hundred dollars to pay the same. August 21st, the same amount of bounty was authorized to be paid to each volunteer for nine months' service, provided that 'the whole quota shall be raised previous to the expiration of the time given to raise the men.' (This proviso was reconsidered at the next meeting.) The treasurer, under the direction of the Selectmen, was authorized to borrow a sufficient amount to pay said bounties. September 16th, full power was given to the Selectmen to fill the quota of the town 'in such a way as they may deem best.' State aid was voted to soldiers' families.

1863, March 2nd. Voted, to pay one hundred dollars to all volunteers belonging to that town who had not already been paid a bounty, either by Needham or any other place; also, to the legal heirs of those who have died, and an additional one hundred dollars where the deceased soldier 'leaves a wife or any children under twelve years of age.'

1864, April 14th, Voted to raise two thousand eight hundred and seventy-five dollars to refund money advanced by individuals for recruiting purposes, and two thousand two hundred and fifty dollars were appropriated for bounties. August 4th, the bounty to each volunteer enlisting for three years to the credit of the town was fixed at one hundred and twenty-five dollars, and so continued to the end of the war.

1865, May 22nd, The Selectmen were authorized to borrow a sufficient amount of money to reimburse citizens who had advanced money to aid recruiting.

Needham furnished two hundred and eighty-two men for the war, which was a surplus of twenty-three over and above all demands. Four were commissioned officers. The whole amount of money appropriated and expended by the town on account of the war was thirty-one thousand eight hundred and twelve dollars and thirty-two cents.

The amount of money raised and expended during the war for

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

State aid to soldiers' families, and refunded by the Commonwealth, was as follows:—In 1861, \$496.81; in 1862, \$2,865.37; in 1863, \$4,276.30; in 1864, \$3,208.16; in 1865, \$2,000.00. Total amount, \$12,846.64.

The ladies of Needham furnished many comfortable garments for the soldiers, and labored in their behalf during the entire period of the war.

These facts and figures, which I have collated from Gen. Schouler's invaluable book, 'Massachusetts in the Rebellion,' are, in themselves a sufficient eulogy on the patriotism of this little town, whose population in 1865 was but 2,793, and whose valuation in the same year, 1865, was but \$1,798,498. But Needham was not alone in patriotic deeds. All over the State, all over New England, and over all the free Northern States of the Union, the people were animated, inspired, by one common impulse of patriotism. The issue was to be decided by the ordeal of war whether the United States were a Nation or a collection of independent political communities.

You remember with what alacrity the young men from Wellesley and Grantville and Needham Plain responded to the call. Mr. Whittaker writes to me from Washington, May 6th, 1872, that the movement was very actively seconded by the young men of Grantville, Wellesley and Needham Plain, while the neighboring villages of South Natick and Newton Lower Falls were represented in a company which he with Mr. D. D. Dana (Treasurer of the Douglass Axe Company) and Mr. Patten (of the Suffolk Bank of Boston) residents of Grantville, were appointed a committee to form. 'The usual drill practice previous to mustering into the service was vigorously followed up; but,' he writes, "to my associates on the committee much more than to myself belongs the credit of personal attendance upon these drills which took place at these villages alternately." This Company was finally withdrawn from Needham and merged in the more extended musterings of the larger towns in the county."

John Monaghan and Patrick Walsh enlisted in the thirty-fifth Massachusetts, Monaghan serving from '62 until he was taken prisoner in '64, in which condition he remained until the end of the war. Walsh was a British marine who was of great service in training recruits. He was killed at Antietam and was said to be one of the bravest soldiers who went from Wellesley.

The following is a list of men from Needham who offered themselves for a nine months' service:

### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Needham, August 31, 1862.

We, whose names are hereunto affixed, severally enlist in a Company of Volunteer Militia in Needham and vicinity, subject to orders of the Commander-in-Chief and all laws and regulations governing the Militia of this Commonwealth, and agreeing to serve upon any requisition of the Government of the United States,—

## WELLESLEY IN THE WARS

issued during the present year, as a militia man, for the term of nine months consecutively, if orders therefore shall be issued by the Commander-in-chief of the Militia of Massachusetts.

Joseph E. Fiske, 22; Emery F. Hunting, 23; John W. Greenwood, 25; Edward Lyon, 18; George Coulter, 24; Harry A. Ambler, 33; William F. Ambler, 27; John White, 43; Charles R. Severance, 30; Newell H. Dadmun, 24; Albert Fuller, 19; Richard F. Boynton, 20; John H. Johnson, 18; Cyrus A. Joy, 25; Pliny H. Jones, 25; Samuel F. Richards, 23; Horace E. Ambler, 33; Robert Clair, 17; Samuel F. Draper, 27; Freeman A. Tower, 22; Joseph H. Dewing, 31; Charles F. Wisner, 19; William Hyde, 29; Ezra N. Fuller, 19; Henry Lyon, 21; Charles E. Belchers, 35; George E. Everett, 16; Joseph Oakes, 20; John Brimien, 35; William H. McLane, 33; Dennis Crowley, 31; Timothy Sullivan, 19; John E. Richards, 34; William H. Morton, 31; William Moseley, 29; William F. Alden, 17; Willard H. Hotchkiss, 21; Israel Hunting, Jr., 39; George F. Palmer, 22; B. F. Fuller, 30; Alfred C. Goodnow, 18; John P. Marshall, 38; John Duggan, 26; George P. Wisner, 20; John G. Whitmarsh, 18; Ambrose P. Hatch, 29; Robert McCloud, 18; Charles Newell, 19; Alvah T. Jones, 18; Charles M. Gilder, 18; Sidney A. Johnson, 26; William Bullard, 20; Nathaniel L. Tucker, 23; Alonzo Piper, 18; Joseph Griot, 1st, 41; James A. Ambler, 20; Rufus B. Curtis, 41; John M. Hanley, 18; W. H. Kingsbury, 21; Allen Howland, 34; Richard Boynton, 53; John Wakefield, 40; Marshall P. Eayes.

The list of the town's dead as read year by year on Memorial Day follows and is a record, brief but comprehensive of those who lived in West Needham, entering various companies for a more or less extended service. Their various services are recorded in their regimental histories.

Moses H. Bullard, Co. G, 22nd Mass. Inf., enlisted September, 1861, killed at Gaines Mills, June 27, 1862.

Sergt. Henry A. Fuller, Co. I, 20th Mass. Inf., enlisted Dec. 31st, 1861, died at Salisbury Prison, No. Carolina, Feb. 10, 1865.

William Fuller, Co. F, 18th Mass. Inf., enlisted July 26, 1861, died at Union Chapel Hospital, Washington, Aug. 30, 1862.

Willard Hunting, Co. A, 39th Mass. Inf., enlisted Aug. 7, 1862, died at Salisbury Prison, No. Carolina, Dec. 5, 1864.

Cornelius Kennedy, Co. F, 40th Mass. Inf., enlisted Sept. 3, 1862, missing in action, May 16, 1864.

Lewis H. Kingsbury, 5th Mass. Inf., enlisted Sept. 16, 1862, discharged July 2, 1863, died at home, April 23, 1876.

William H. Kingsbury, 43rd Mass. Inf., enlisted Sept. 24, 1862, died in Beaufort, North Carolina Hospital, Mar. 1, 1863.

Charles E. Peabody, Co. C, United States Engineer Corps, enlisted Oct. 4, 1861, death caused by an accident, July 24, 1870.

W. O. Sawyer, Co. D, 3rd Mass. Heavy Artillery, enlisted Aug. 14, 1863, died July 21, 1864.

Charles R. Severance, 56th Mass. Inf., enlisted March 11, 1864, killed in action at Bethesda Church, Virginia, May 31, 1864.

E. Frank Severance, Co. I, 18th Mass. Inf., "The only drafted

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

man in town who responded in person," supposed to have died in a rebel prison.

John G. Shaw, Co. F, 5th Mass. Inf., enlisted July 16, 1864, discharged Nov. 16, 1864, died at home Sept. 23, 1873.

Fred J. Simpson, Co. G., 1st Mass. Heavy Artillery, enlisted July 5, 1861, died in Florence Prison, So. Carolina, Jan. 25, 1865.

Sergt. Cornelius D. Smith, Co. F, 18th Mass. Inf., enlisted July 5, 1861, died at his home, Sept. 8, 1864.

Elbridge Stevens, Co. A, 39th Mass. Inf., enlisted Aug. 7, 1862, died at Richmond on his way home from Salisbury Prison, March 5, 1865.

Henry Lyon, enlisted in Co. A, 44th Mass. Inf., died at home, April 18, 1868.

Joseph H. Dewing, enlisted Co. C, 43rd Mass. Inf., died at home, July 2, 1890.

Daniel F. Morse, enlisted May 2, 1862, Co. A, 39th Regt. Mass. Inf., died at home, Dec. 2, 1890.

Newell H. Dadmun, Co. A, 44th Mass. Inf., enlisted 1862, died at home, Sept. 12, 1901.

Warren A. Fuller, 1st Lieut. 4th Mass. Cav., enlisted Oct. 12, 1864. Discharged Nov., 1865, expiration of service. Died at home in New Jersey, Aug. 27, 1904.

John Monaghan, Co. I, 35th Mass. Inf., Aug., 1862. Mustered out at end of March. Died Aug. 20, 1884.

Charles P. Withington, enlisted at Boston, Feb. 3, 1862, on Gunboat *Marblehead*, discharged Aug. 4, 1863. Re-enlisted Aug. 31, 1864, in Co. L, 3rd Mass. Regiment, Heavy Artillery. Discharged June 17, 1865. Died at home, Sept. 23, 1906.

Joseph E. Fiske served, 1862, in Co. C, 43rd Massachusetts Volunteers, captain, 1863, in 2d Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, discharged at close of war, May 15, 1865. Died Feb. 22, 1909, at home, Wellesley Hills.

Oliver C. Livermore, enlisted July 16, 1861. Captain 13th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, Co. B, discharged Aug. 1, 1864. Died at Wellesley Hills, May 17, 1912.

Supplementary list of veterans, residents of Wellesley at time of death.

George E. Johnson enlisted at Waltham Sept. 23, 1861, in 1st Massachusetts Cavalry, Co. M. Died at Wellesley Hills, Aug. 18, 1907.

Calvin W. Smith enlisted at Dixon, Ill., in 1861, in Co. B, 13th Ill. Inf. Died at Wellesley Hills, Sept. 21, 1905.

George A. Blake, Co. H, 13th Reg. Massachusetts Vol. Enlisted July 19, 1861. Mustered out July 1, 1864. Died at Wellesley, Nov. 11, 1889.

Henry P. Varney, Corporal, Co. L, 3rd Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Heavy Artillery. Enlisted Aug. 23, 1864. Mustered out Sept. 18, 1865. Died at Wellesley, Feb. 16, 1910.

John Evans, Co. D, 1st Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, enlisted



## WELLESLEY IN THE WARS

Feb. 27, 1862. Discharged August, 1865. Died at Wellesley, Sept. 15, 1911.

Horace Obeare enlisted Aug. 15, 1862, Co. 8th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers. Discharged Aug. 6, 1864. Died at Wellesley, Feb. 13, 1912.

George H. Robbins enlisted in Co. F, 1st Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers, May 2, 1861. Discharged Aug. 9, 1861. Enlistment and discharge at Nashua, N. H. Re-enlisted at Nashua, N. H., Sept. 21, 1861, in Co. D Battalion, Engineer in U. S. Army. Discharged and mustered out before Petersburg, Sept. 21, 1864. Died at Wellesley, Nov. 24, 1913.

Abraham Bigelow, 1st Sergeant, enlisted in Co. H, 13th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, July 19, 1861. Discharged Aug. 1, 1864. Died at Wellesley, Aug. 3, 1914.

Chester A. Bigelow enlisted in Co. J, 39th Regiment of Massachusetts Infantry, Feb. 24, 1862. Discharged Feb. 23, 1865, by expiration of service. Died at Wellesley, March 3, 1915.

Zibeon H. Gould enlisted in Co. H, 13th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, July 19, 1861. Discharged Aug. 1, 1864, by expiration of term of service. Died at Wellesley, Sept. 27, 1915.

The Spanish War was represented by several young men, most of whom were not called into active service. Among them were: Roscoe Buck in the Marine Corps; Thomas Burnett, Co. C, 5th Massachusetts, who died of fever at Chattanooga; Charles S. Cabot, also of the 5th; Claude U. Gilson of the 8th; Henry Fuller Lawrence in the Coast Artillery Corps; Harry L. Peabody who entered with the 7th United States Infantry and was transferred to the 18th; Edward R. Robson, Co. C, of the 5th; J. F. Whitney, Co. H, of the 5th; Guy Bergonzoni of the Naval Militia.

In this present year (1917) of the Great War, and as this book is in press, Wellesley is again giving men and money, to do her share in promoting the cause of Democracy.

<sup>1</sup> Rev. Stephen Palmer in his Century Sermon on Nov. 16, 1811, said "that was a melancholy circumstance attending the slain, they left five widows and nearly thirty fatherless children to mourn their loss." It has been said that Needham suffered more on that day—Lexington excepted—than any other town in the State.

<sup>2</sup> In 1843 West Needham like other towns in the vicinity during that period celebrated Cornwallis Day by a sham battle and the siege and surrender at Yorktown. The affair took place on the vacant land now including Elm, Croton and Pine Streets, Wellesley Hills. Gen. Charles Rice was Lord Cornwallis and Warren Dewing, General Washington.

The following is a copy of a handbill in possession of the Rice family, and loaned by Mr. Frederick C. Leslie:

### CORNWALLIS

The Celebration of the Surrender of Cornwallis will take place at Needham on Thursday, (19th inst.).

Troops of Volunteer Companies belonging to the town, and from the neighboring towns, amounting together to about 1,000 will be present.

The line will be formed near the Depot, at 10 o'clock, precisely; go through a few evolutions, and form a hollow square, when an ADDRESS, appropriate to the occasion, will be delivered by



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

N. P. BANKS, Esq.

The Army will prepare for action at 2 o'clock p. m. and the movements are intended to come as near as practicable to the Surrender of Cornwallis, 62 years ago.

The Committee have the pleasure to state that the

HON. RICHARD M. JOHNSON

of Kentucky has accepted an invitation to be present. It is expected that Col. Johnson will be escorted to the field of battle by the National Lancers of the City of Boston.

Promptness, Soldier-like attention and decorum are the order of the day.

Charles Rice,  
Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements.

NEEDHAM, Oct. 17, 1843.

Andrew G. Prentiss, Printers, 4 Devonshire St.

The next day the *Evening Transcript* had the following which had been copied from the *Post*.

### THE CORNWALLIS SHAM FIGHT

The contemplated military spectacle of a sham fight came off at Needham yesterday in grand style. The weather cleared off beautifully about 1.00 o'clock and full 500 volunteers assembled on the field. The British (for the day) were commanded by Gen. Rice, and the Americans by Col. Dewing. There were companies from Brighton, Dedham, Needham, and Natick. Col. Johnson and suite, consisting of Col. Macomber, Col. Holbrook, and Col. Mitchell came on to the ground in a barouche, and Col. Johnson was eloquently addressed by E. K. Whitaker, Esq., chairman of the committee of arrangements appointed to welcome him. He was also addressed on the part of the military, by N. P. Banks, Esq., and to whom he replied with great feeling and simplicity of manner, and he was evidently much affected by the warm reception he met with. During the sham fight, a spectator had his arm broken in a scuffle, and this was the only accident or unpleasant occurrence on the battlefield.

A program for July 4, 1859, reads: "The anniversary of the Declaration of Independence will be celebrated at the North District School House by permission of the school committee in the following manner. Marshall of the Day, Mr. C. B. Patten. Order of Exercises, I Prayer, II Reading of Declaration of Independence by Mr. I. I. Leslie, III Music by the children of the School; Song and chorus in which all are requested to join—"O Columbia the Gem of the Ocean" (3 stanzas). IV Oration by Rev. E. S. Atwood. V Poem prepared for the occasion by Mr. J. L. Fairbanks. VI Music. Song and chorus in which all are requested to join. 'My country, 'tis of thee' (4 stanzas). To commence at 5 o'clock p. m.

Fireworks will be displayed from Meeting House Hill by consent of Gen. Charles Rice, near the corner of Rice's Crossing Road as soon after dark as possible."

In March, 1875, the town chose a committee consisting of Warren Dewing, Solomon Flagg and George K. Daniell to arrange in reference to the centennial celebration at Lexington and Concord. The Needham delegation was in the eighth division of the Lexington celebration, Gen. William Cogswill, chief. The delegation was mounted, under Joseph E. Fiske, marshall. There were one hundred men, attended by the Needham Band and the Highlandville Cornet Band. Post 21 G. A. R. sent thirty men. Gov. Gaston and Chief Justice Gray were among the speakers.

### OLD FAMILIES

The historical associations with the name of Wellesley are numerous and interesting, and embrace the most important events in American history. Andrew Dewing, probably the first settler in the town, was the ancestor of soldiers in the Revolution and the Civil War.

The Fullers, always one of the most influential families of the place, claim their origin from Thomas Fuller (a member of whose

## OLD FAMILIES

family early built a house near the town line), a representative to the General Court as early as 1686, whose son was wounded in the Narraganset War, and whose descendants were conspicuous in the earlier and later wars and in civil life,—William and Henry A. serving in the war of the Rebellion.

The Wares, another well-known family, have always had their representatives in church, town and military matters, one of whom left a very valuable journal of his journey to Quebec under Arnold in 1776.

The Kingsburys, descendants of Joseph Kingsbury of Dedham, furnished one of their number as captain of a company which fought at the battle of Lexington, and a noble child of the house, William H., died in the Civil War, while Dexter held town offices for many years.

The Mills, one of whom was killed (and the only one living within the limits of Wellesley who was killed) in the Lexington fight, and the Smiths freely represented in the Revolutionary and Rebellion contests:—Daniel, the first deacon of the West Needham Church, represented in all places of honor and works, with a female ancestor captured and scalped by the Indians, and the last with us well-known as moderator and assessor; the Flaggs, synonym for town office; Fiskes, residents of the Leg and builders of some of our old homes, Emery serving as delegate to the convention for revising the Constitution of Massachusetts in 1853, Joseph E., the last in the male line, for many years selectman, school committee and moderator, captain of artillery in the Civil War; the Stevens, faithful and true, one of whom, Elbridge, died in Libby Prison at Richmond; the Slacks, owners of an immense tract of land in the lower part of the town, the last generation represented by Capt. C. B. Slack in the war of the Rebellion; the Lyons, eminent as manufacturers and farmers, with two of the family on the muster roll of the Forty-fourth Massachusetts Regiment; the Huntings, descendants of John Hunting, the first elder of the Dedham Church, three of the last generation in the Civil War,—Willard dying in prison; all these have done their share in honest, faithful work to enhance the reputation of their town and make the world better for having lived in it.

In St. Mary's churchyard, at Newton Lower Falls, are buried members of the Lyon, Pratt, Daniel, Rice, Hoogs families. In Needham Cemetery, clustered around their minister, waiting for the call for the last congregation lie the Slacks, Daniels, Wares, Kingsburys, Fullers.

In Wellesley Village are still gravestones of the Noyes, Smith, Stevens, Fuller, Kingsbury families.<sup>1</sup>

Of later names, though none natives of the place, but of whom the town has good cause to be proud are those known beyond our limits, in literary, artistic and scientific circles.

Among them should be mentioned Isaac Sprague of the past generation (1811-1890), the illustrator of Grey's Botany, a friend and collaborator of Audubon.

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Graham Bell lived at the Falls at about the time of his invention of the use of the telephone.

The Denton brothers are known throughout the world as naturalists, reproducers of the original colors of fish and birds and inventors and manufacturers of "butterfly jewelry."

Mary B. Hazleton, declared by Sargent and others to be the foremost woman portrait painter in America, has painted very beautiful mural decorations for the Hills Congregational Church.

W. L. Taylor is well known as an illustrator, his work appearing in the *Ladies' Home Journal* and other journals.

Of our literary talent the most noted are Gamaliel Bradford, whose "Portraits of Union Generals" and "Confederate Generals" are perhaps best known, and Katherine Lee Bates, a long-time resident, and now Professor of Literature at Wellesley, who has written many books on Spain and some very charming verse.

<sup>1</sup> C. C. Greenwood's and G. K. Clarke's various books on "Epitaphs" contain much genealogical matter.

## THE TOWN FARM

Needham, April 14, 1828.

The town being met (for the express purpose) on an adjournment from the first Monday in April. Proceeded as follows. Viz.—It was put to the vote of the town to see if they would accept of the report of their Committee: the report being in favor of purchasing the farm improved by the Widow Emily Kingsberry and belonging to Mr. John Welles of Boston, and it passed in the affirmative. The town voted to choose a committee to receive a Deed of Mr. John Welles in behalf of the town of the aforesaid farm—and Capt. Jona Gay, Benjm Slack, Esq., and Mr. Moses Garfield were chosen their committee. The place was bought for \$2,550.

The town voted that this committee be chosen to prescribe rules and regulations respecting their poor house and Gen. Charles Rice, Aaron Smith, Esq., and Artemus Newell, Esq., were chosen their committee.

The town voted that the overseers of the poor take charge of the farm bought for the poor.

This Meeting Dissolved.

Asa Kingsbury,  
Town Clerk.

The building was insured in 1830.

The poor of the town were therefore cared for in one building and not boarded out as had been the custom. Another problem was also solved concerning the best place for town meetings, which were now held in a hall which was built on the first floor. For several years the plan had been tried of meeting alternately in the East and West Meeting Houses, varied by meeting at Col. William McIntosh's or Bullard's Tavern. But having acquired a place for their poor and for general meetings the farm seemed to be a white elephant, hard to handle. For years almost every town meeting voted a committee

## THE TOWN FARM

to consider selling it and building a smaller house. Each year a committee reported on the condition of the inmates.

But previous to this decision and purchase by the town Dover had written to Needham and other surrounding towns to see if they would not join together and purchase a farm which could be used by all in common.

In 1835 the town voted that "the Selectmen shall purchase a bathing tub that shall be kept at the Almshouse under their care."

In the same year a petition was presented to be incorporated into the town warrant "to see if the town will vote to prohibit ardent spirits being furnished by the overseers of the poor for the use of their paupers at the expense of the town."

November 11, 1833, a road was accepted from the Almshouse to Wellesley village at Noyes' Corner (Wellesley Ave.).

In 1837 the town voted that the selectmen and Daniel Ware prescribe rules and regulations for the Inmates of the Alms House.

April 3, 1838, a building committee of Jabez Smith, Dexter Ware and Spencer Fuller were "chosen to take down and dispose of the old almshouse and move out-buildings to accommodate the new almshouse." Voted that "the care of the town hall be in the care of the keeper of the almshouse, under the direction of the Selectmen and also that it may be occupied for public, political and other civic meetings, that the town provide lamps for the town hall and those that appoint meetings in said hall are to furnish oil for the same." In rebuilding the house Mr. Pickering, the contractor, made the shed of material from the original Kingsbury barn. The town met at the hall November 12, 1838, and a committee was chosen to take down and dispose of the old almshouse and move the out-buildings to accommodate the new almshouse.

In 1859 we find that Dexter Kingsbury bought the "vane and fixtures for \$15."

During the middle of the century the town reports place the value of the Town Farm and Buildings at \$8,500 and the Personal Property at \$3,000. In 1872 a smallpox hospital was built at an expense of \$558.87, the appropriation being \$1,200. In 1873 further work was done on it to the extent of \$398.47, still leaving a little of the appropriation. The same year the detailed smallpox account amounted to \$683.21 for the patients. In 1873 the Lockup was built at an expense of \$678.43, the appropriation being \$1,000.

In 1871 the report asks for a larger hall and a suggestion is also offered that a cemetery be placed on land southeast of the Town house.

In 1874 "pursuant to a vote of the town your Selectmen have caused certain alterations in, and additions to be made to the Town Hall building. The accommodations now are ample and convenient for town purposes. The main hall is 73x34 feet, with a room for the Selectmen 14x19, and another for the School Committee 14x14; these two rooms are arranged with folding doors, so that if necessary they will form one larger room 14x34. The work was done by contract as nearly as was consistent with remodelling and repairing

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

old work. As the work progressed many changes were found necessary, which could not be brought into the estimate, as they had to conform to the frame and plan of the old building."

The following is a statement of the cost of the work:—

By Cash paid—

J. M. Harris, for plan of Town Hall building..	\$ 15.00
J. E. Cloyes, for underpinning stone.....	98.49
Jno. Fuller, for laying cellar-wall.....	231.52
J. H. Fitzgerald, for rods in hall.....	60.00
Gardner Chilson, for ventilators in hall.....	16.00
Dennett, Bliss & Jones, for paper for anterooms	5.20
W. D. Parlin, for paper for house.....	12.31
Fawcett, Hawkes & Co., for two furnaces....	439.22
Oliver Pickering, on contract.....	6,323.00
Oliver Pickering, for extras.....	1,003.63
A. M. Mace & Co., for lead pipe and plumbing for pump and sink.....	11.37
Wisner & Edwards, for papering and painting, extra .....	81.64
E. Peabody, furniture in house.....	55.00
New England Carpet Co., for carpets in house	88.80
Goldthwait, Snow & Knight, for carpets for anterooms .....	57.15
Stephen Smith & Co., for desks, bookcase and tables for hall and anterooms.....	119.00
W. O. Haskell & Co., for settees for hall.....	215.00
Tucker Manufacturing Co., lamps for hall and building .....	69.81
Walter Bowers, for rebuilding lockups.....	205.98
	<hr/> \$9,109.27

These items have been charged as follows:—

To original appropriation for alterations, Town Hall building.....	\$6,500.00
Additional appropriation made at town meet- ing, December 30.....	1,500.00
Returned from the State on account of small- pox bills and State Poor, and expended for the comfort of the poor in heating, paint- ing, papering, furnishing and incidentals, which would not properly belong to altera- tions in Town Hall.....	763.20
Unexpended balance of lockup appropriation made last year.....	321.57
Miscellaneous .....	24.50
	<hr/> \$9,109.27



## THE TOWN FARM

The town report for 1878 stated that the "building known as the 'smallpox hospital' has been moved to within a few feet of the main building—the former location being so remote that the warden could not properly look after it. The building has been used chiefly, since the main building was repaired, as a lodging place for tramps, who after receiving a night's lodging, would frequently show their gratitude by stealing the blankets, etc., sometimes soiling and disfiguring the building, and even going so far as to attempt to burn it, the insurance companies refusing to insure it in its old location."

The town report for Wellesley, 1881, says: "Immediately after the incorporation of the town we made a contract with the overseers of Needham to board their poor for the year ending March 31, 1882, at two dollars a week. While this price seemed at the time to be sufficient, the great advance in most all kinds of provisions has proved it entirely inadequate, and should we board them the coming year we should feel obliged to charge more. . . . The question of selling the farm is a matter which should be carefully considered. It is very apparent that if the farm could be sold for a sum approximating to the amount allowed Needham for her half and the money placed at interest (besides getting so much more taxable property) it would be economy to do so, and make other arrangements for our poor."

In 1882 the valuation of the Town Farm and buildings was placed at \$14,000.00, and the personal property at the town farm at \$2,840.00.

September 17, 1883, a portion of the land was sold to Josiah G. Abbott for \$3,501.80.

In 1910 the Farm was leased to the Country Club Corporation.

The following men served as keepers or wardens of the town farm from the time it was bought until it was given up in 1910. For several years previous, carrying on the farm was costing the town far more for maintaining its poor than was necessary. The keepers were always married and their wives proved of great assistance to them. After 1880 the words warden and matron were used in describing the work done. For the first thirty or forty years of the existence of the farm, the wardens were generally the liquor agents of the town and rendered their account to the selectmen.

Israel Whiting, May 19, 1828-April 25, 1832; Benjamin Fuller, April 25, 1832-April 25, 1833; Joseph Newell, April 25, 1833-April 10, 1834; Daniel Ware, April 9, 1834-April, 1838; John Kingsbury, April, 1838-April, 1841; Jacob Hardon, April, 1841-September 17, 1841; Alvin Fuller 2d, September 17, 1841-April 1, 1845; John Kingsbury, April 1, 1845-April 1, 1846; James Smith, April 1, 1846-1851; G. E. Byington, 1851-March, 1852; Ezekiel Peabody, March, 1852-March, 1859; Dexter Kingsbury, March, 1859-March, 1867; Benjamin Joy, March, 1867-March, 1872; D. A. Warner, March, 1872-March, 1873; Ezekiel Peabody, March, 1873-March, 1884; I. T. Swift, March, 1884-1888; Philip Atwood, 1888-1890; George W. Whitten, 1890-1892; C. E. Davis, 1892-1893; W. E. Woodward, 1893-March 1, 1895:



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Theodore Bolser, March 1, 1895-March 1, 1898; George H. Twombly, March 1, 1898-April 1, 1904; George W. Martin, April 1, 1904-April 1, 1905; George H. Twombly, April 1, 1905-September 1, 1907; Arthur B. Tull, September 1, 1907-

The Town Farm was discontinued in 1910.

(When exact dates are known they are given, otherwise the month was probably March.)

## TAVERNS AND OLD HOUSES

In Elm Park, Wellesley Hills, was the old hotel of that name once called the Needham Hotel. It has generally been known by the names of its various owners or occupants. In 1811 Calvin Fisk is recorded as owning it and adjacent land. In 1824 John Sargent (who married Abigail Ware) and Nathan White were proprietors. It was called Shepherds' from 1840 to 1847 and later Crafts'. In 1849 it is spoken of as the Grantville Temperance House. Mr. and Mrs. Leland kept a school there as well as a tavern. Philena Tenney was a later landlord. The owners and landlords were not always the same people.

The county records give deeds as follows: April 12, 1808, land was sold to David Stone and Calvin Fisk who probably built the tavern; December 4, 1812, Fisk as mortgagor to Jeremiah Gore and John Harris; Ephraim Bullard, Sheriff sold to Timothy Daniels; the Daniels estate held the property until 1834, when it was sold to John W. Slack,<sup>1</sup> who was granted a license as a taverner to sell liquors. Nathan White and John Sargent held an interest in it which they sold out to Marshall Spring of Watertown. Mary Spring for the estate sold it in 1845 to Daniel Stone, who in 1851 sold to Benjamin I. Leeds, who sold to L. Allen Kingsbury, who sold it to Timothy Hancock in 1857, who in 1867 sold to Charles Newhall who sold it to John W. Shaw.

The last owners and occupants were the Shaw and Livermore families in whose day (1908) it was bought both through private subscription and by the town and torn down and the land made a public park.

The row of old elms which were right at the door indicates with what a flourish the old stage coaches used to drive up to the very doorstep. Up to 1860 there was a road from the hotel to the Grantville Depot between Washington Street and Worcester Turnpike.

Hoogs' Tavern, owned and conducted by five-fingered George Hoogs, was situated at Newton Lower Falls just beyond the present railroad crossing on the northeast corner. It was burned in 1905. Hoogs lived in the house next to the tavern with the pillars in front, now a tenement house.

Wales' Tavern was beyond the river at the junction of Wales and Washington Streets.

In Wellesley village Blanchard's Tavern was on the main thor-



Looking East



*Photos by Albert St. Clair*

Looking West

WELLESLEY HILLS SQUARE  
(Before 1900)



## TAVERNS AND OLD HOUSES

oughfare, but is now practically hidden by the Partridge Block which has been erected in front of it.

The A. B. Clarke house, on the corner of Washington and Church Streets, once owned by Flagg, was formerly a tavern. Solomon Flagg's father—also a Solomon—kept it as a tavern for a short time. He married Esther Brown whose sister Betsy left \$5,000 to the West Needham Church. The Betsy Brown house, an old black house, formerly standing near the A. P. Dana home, was built by a Dewing and bought by Mr. Samuel Brown about seventy years after it was built. He built the north end. The chimney in the old house was built on the outside. Mr. Brown was a Methodist, attending the church in the Hundreds. He was a town officer, filling various capacities for many years. Eben Flagg's house on Central Street was once also a tavern—Crockett's.

The building first used by the Unitarian Society was Maugus Hall, originally a freight house. Its last use is the dwelling of John Crosswell, who also bought the old Congregational Church which he used for a barn. This was afterwards burned. During the early sixties Maugus Hall was called the Wigwam, and used as a paint shop by one Bedoe. It was the scene of the McLellan riot during war times, when "secesh" and war advocates made it very lively. Report had it that during the excitement of the meeting people were thrown out of the windows. But Mr. Atwood, the minister, reminded the over zealous press that, there being no windows, such a thing was not probable.

For several years it was owned by the Maugus Hall Association and was the only meeting place in the village for social gatherings.

The Dewing garrison house, built as early as 1656, was the first house, as far as is known, that was built within the present precincts of Wellesley. Its site is believed to have been on Grove Street at about the entrance to the Baker place, and opposite the G. E. Alden estate.

Here, more than two centuries later, William Emerson Baker, of sewing machine fame, bought in 1868 from Payson Pierce, Daniel Ware and others, well cultivated farms containing about 820 acres, and developed a very wonderful place of entertainment. He called it Ridge Hill Farm, and built a house for his family which with the various other buildings on the grounds often housed several hundred people. His grotto, stable, fountains, zoological museum, antiques, and numerous entertainments are among the unique remembrances of those who were fortunate enough to have seen them.

Although most of the property is in Needham, the Wellesley station was always used for visitors. It is said that when the town was divided Mr. Baker asked to be set off in a borough by himself, but the General Court did not see fit to grant his request. Hotel Wellesley was built by him, and was carried on as a high class hostelry for some years until it was burned in the '90's.

In Wellesley village we find that during the early days of the Civil War the minister, A. R. Baker, who built and lived in the

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

house now occupied by H. L. Rollins, was a believer in slavery, and suspected of being friendly to the South. Many of his parishioners objected, and a threat was made to raise the Union colors at his house, but when the eventful day arrived, the only result was an earnest promise on the part of Major J. W. Wright (then living in the house now owned by Mrs. Simonds) the ringleader, that the community would protect him in the future. The affair still lingers joyfully in the memory of those who were boys at the time, and sat on the fence, fearfully, but hopefully, looking for bloodshed.

Mr. Baker's wife under the name of Aunt Hattie, wrote stories for children. The house was on the site of a smaller one owned by Deacon Hezekiah Fuller, who for a short time boarded a former minister, Mr. Sessions and his family. Before building his house Mr. Baker had lived in the house now occupied by A. P. Dana.

Captain Aaron Smith's house in the college ground back of the greenhouses is a very old house and was built before the Revolution.

Parson Noyes' house was on the cellar hole which may still be seen behind the clump of lilacs east of the Town Library. This house was later owned by Dr. W. T. G. Morton, the first permanent user of ether as an anesthetic, and lived in by his parents. The house was burned during their occupancy. Dr. Morton lived in the house now further east which was then on the library site. This was built by him in 1845, the year before he began to use ether. He manufactured teeth here, employing women for the work. His grounds were very extensive, reaching west across the tracks. In a time when farming was not as much of an avocation for gentlemen as it is now he carried on a large farm, and is said to have first introduced the Jersey cow into America.

"In 1850 the agricultural society of Norfolk County in which Etherton Cottage is situated was instituted by the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder and others who were personal friends of Dr. Morton. . . . The premiums awarded to Dr. Morton at different times by the State and Norfolk County Agricultural Societies not only bear witness to his own superiority of culture but to the necessity for science in this primitive vocation; in fact there is no pursuit which requires more scientific investigation. West Needham, the home of Dr. Morton, notwithstanding its poor prosaic name, is really a pretty pastoral-looking place surrounded by low wooded hills, protecting as it were the fine farms and orchards, and the pleasant dwellings everywhere seen in the valleys and on the uplands around. In twenty minutes after leaving the bustle of Boston, if the cars make good speed, you will reach this rural scene, where Nature still holds her quiet way, except when the steam-horse goes snorting and thundering by." ("Trials of a Public Benefactor, as illustrated by the discovery of Etherization," by Nathan P. Rias. M.D. Published 1859.)

The postmaster, Alvin Fuller, 2d, lived in the house now occupied by W. W. Diehl which then stood on the corner of Washington and Forest Streets. Another residence of the Fuller family in the



## TAVERNS AND OLD HOUSES

same vicinity was the Phillips house where Alvin was born. It was bought by Freeman Phillips in 1868 of Mrs. W. B. Tappan, and had been occupied by Solomon Flagg, by the parents of A. R. Clapp as well as by various members of the Fuller and Withington families.

One of the most travelled houses in town has been owned and lived in by W. H. Adams, Deacon Batchelder, the E. H. Stanwood family and now by R. W. Babson. Its original position was about where the Wellesley Hills station now stands; later it was moved across to the present entrance of Abbott Road; again to the junction of Abbott Road and Maple Street (now Seaward Place), and finally and presumably to its last resting place on Abbott Road. W. H. Adams kept a school there, where his brother-in-law, Sam Pettingill (later the head of the first advertising agency) was of great assistance to him. It was also the place where the early meetings of the Grantville Congregational Society were held. Deacon Batchelder's land extended to what is now Rockland Street which he used as a cow pasture. This land formerly belonged to the Kingsburys and a house was on this land which may have been the original Kingsbury house. In 1814 there was a tremendous gale and the wheat fields of the Kingsburys' which extended from what is now Abbott Road to Wellesley Hills Square were completely demolished. Barns and houses were destroyed and the loss of property was very great. Joseph Kingsbury owned the property at this time.

The house now lived in by Dr. Hazelton and his family was directly on the Sherborn Road, with the row of elms lining the road directly in front of the house, the road passing through the present lawn of the Unitarian Church. This house was at one time a part of the Batchelder property and is now owned by A. R. Clapp. It is one of the oldest houses in town, and is said to have been built by the brother of the leader of the Boston Tea Party, if leader there was.

The house now owned and lived in by Richard Cunningham was built by Hezekiah Fuller for the first minister of the Grantville church, Harvey Newcomb. The land was owned by Dexter Ware and was lot No. 1, being a square lot reaching up on to Maugus Hill.

The house on the west side of Washington Street in Wellesley Hills Square, owned by George Dexter Ware, has been in this branch of the family for years. It was built by George Hoogs, cousin of the one who kept the tavern at the Falls, and is a very good example of the old New England style of village architecture. Ware and Wilder's store was here for several years. The long, low narrow building formerly standing next to it was the home of Mary Jane Dix and her mother, and later it was used as a store by Mr. A. R. Clapp's father, the Huntings, Seawards, Rowells and others. It was torn down about thirty years ago.

Back of these buildings where the waterworks and railroad are now was a good sized pond, almost a lake in size.

The small, white house, also belonging to the Ware estate, was



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

once a blacksmith's shop, owned by Frank Daniels, who lived in the present home of Dr. Hazelton about 1825. His wife was the aunt of Miss Dix, the first wife of L. Allen Kingsbury.

Other existing Ware houses are the Reuel Ware house built by Daniel Ware on Brook Street, now owned by Robert H. Monks; the Captain Reuben Ware house on Walnut Street, now owned by the Millers; and Mr. Sheridan's at the junction of Oakland Street and Brookside Road, where across the road, tradition says, is the old spring used by Mangus. This is probably part of property which in 1833 the town of Needham sold to Isaac Keyes. The deed records thirteen acres on Worcester Turnpike, and, no doubt, is part of the land deeded by Ephraim Ware to the Needham Parish. (These Wares are buried in the Needham Cemetery.)

The "Ryan house" on the corner of Washington and Oakland Streets was built and owned by the Daniells family who owned land in West Needham as early as 1720. Ephraim Daniells, who died in 1784, was born in 1744, and is spoken of as living in the homestead. This is probably the house, though it is known that many alterations have been made. The barn on the Fuller place on the corner of Woodlawn Avenue belonged to the Daniells family and was across Washington Street opposite the house. In 1833 George K. Daniell married Hannah Adams, the adopted daughter of Moses Grant and the daughter of Amasa and Mary (Adams) Fiske of Medfield and a niece of Miss Hannah Adams, the "historian of the Jews." Moses Grant lived in the house on the southwest corner of Worcester and Oakland Streets, now moved back. Later owners of the Ryan house have been the Colburns and William Heckle. During the latter ownership Hugh McLeod lived in it. The Ryan house as well as the Sheridan house is in an excellent state of preservation, and will doubtless continue so, as their owners take great pride in them and their history.

In 1804 Enoch Fiske built the present Fiske homestead for his son, Isaiah, and a little earlier for himself the old house on the Sisters' school grounds on Oakland Street, once owned by Ellery Clarke, whose mother was Harriet Kingsbury. The property was known as the Hollis place, previously to that as the Scudders'. The Scudder house itself was built by John Bird and was much smaller, but has been added to by its various owners. Marshall Scudder was an active citizen of the town and was superintendent of the Grantville Congregational Sunday School for many years.

Lieut. John Ness probably had a house a little north of the Fiske homestead in the eighteenth century. He was moderator of the third meeting held in the West Precinct, April 10, 1775.

A later house, now owned and lived in by General Ward, was formerly known as the Bancroft place and was built by their uncle, John Bird. Mr. E. C. Chapin was the carpenter, and he also erected the "Austen" place for himself, later occupied by the Farleys and now by the Pierson family and owned by Isaac Sprague.

The house on the southeast corner before crossing the railroad track at Newton Lower Falls, was bought by Charles Rice, March

## TAVERNS AND OLD HOUSES

29, 1817, from Lemuel Pratt. In early days Washington Street was very much narrower at this point, the house being further back from the road. "Near the left front of the house steps led down the bank to a sunken garden, the paths were box-bordered, and beds filled with old-fashioned flowers. The side hill was covered with peach trees, and in the spring the blossoming trees made a wonderful picture against the hillside. Before the building of the railroad a small pond of sparkling water, fed by springs, occupied the place of the road to the freight house from Washington Street."

At that time the Pratt house stood further up on the opposite side of the street, just in front of the French-roofed house next the Catholic church. It was moved to its present position on Ledyard Street, between 1831 and 1836. The Pratt estate previous to 1828 contained about one hundred and thirty acres.

Another house owned by General Rice is the one near the river on the corner of River and Washington Streets. When owned by him it had a large hall in the third story, the ceiling was arched and painted with moon and stars, and Masonic emblems. The local lodge met here. It is now owned by James A. Early.

The small house next C. H. Spring's grain office and at the entrance to the Falls railroad station is the house where Francis Blake lived, the assistant of Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone transmitter.

The house where Miss Murilla Williams lived, formerly opposite St. John's Church, now further back on the lot, had "two rooms in front, down stairs box entry, sloping roof, enormous fireplaces, brick oven, two good upright chambers, in one of which a private school was kept by a Mr. Roberts, accessible by an outside staircase; there was a kitchen and inner room, old cinnamon roses in front and lilacs behind the house."

The Sturtevant house built in part by Perceval Chubb has been lived in by Amos Allen, Peter Parker, the Fairbanks and others. The rear is very old.

The house now owned by A. S. Tucker, was built before 1775, probably by Benjamin Slack of Roxbury, as a place of refuge for his family in case of war or pestilence. At the alarm of Lexington the family fled through the wilderness of Brookline (Muddy River), where they hid as British troops marched by. Mr. Slack, leaving his family in charge of his son Benjamin, went on to the battle accompanied by his oldest son John. This house at the lower end of Walnut Street, is one of the oldest in the community. It has had various additions, probably being at first but a four-room house. An addition was built on about 1840, intended for the use of Mr. Slack's sister. The barn, burned in 1915, was built in the early part of last century, and probably replaced a much older one.

The land between Walnut Street and Washington belonged to this family whose daughter Clarissa married Parson Noyes' son Edward. Later much of it was purchased by William Heckle. The older son John owned a large tract of land in Weston, most of which is now the property of Charles T. Hubbard.

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

The land on Walnut Street opposite the North School, on which was once a good-sized house, was known as the Allen farm, later bought by Peter Lyon, then by the Coggeshalls who kept a small dry goods store. The cellar hole behind the elms is all that remains to show it was once a place of residence. The property at present is largely owned by the Catholic parish of Milford. (Peter Lyon's granddaughter married Robert Ingersoll.)

Thomas Slack bought the three-roomed house originally owned by Seth Lyon and moved it from land opposite Fairbanks Avenue and Walnut Street to land near the North School, where it stood on its solitary mound for many years.

<sup>1</sup> That same year George W. Hoogs was also granted a license, both as a taverner and a retailer. Other retailers were Samuel W. Dix and Dexter Ware.

## LAND OWNERS

In addition and subsequent to the original grants of land already given, a summary of the other large owners in real estate may prove interesting.

The division of the Common Lands north of the Sherborn road with consequent private ownership brought about the settlement there within a few years of many families. This was especially true of the district about Lower Falls. Henry Pratt, afterward of Newton, established a tannery at the Falls, just north of the present Washington Street bridge. He possessed considerable land adjoining his tan yard, and built him a house. Lemuel Pratt succeeded to most of his Needham estate, and lived on the north side of what is now Washington Street, where about 1800 Capt. S. A. Pratt kept tavern. The next settler west of Pratt, having his home on the north side of the Weston road, was William Chub whose family removed to Sturbridge. North of his land was the farm of George Robinson who lived within the present limits of Weston, but whose farm was in both towns.

September 2, 1828, the Pratt farm comprised about eighty-six acres bounded "northerly on land of Peter Lyon, Charles Rice and said Broad's land to the Town Road, leading from Newton Lower Falls to Weston, thence on said Road easterly to land of John Parker, thence on said Parker's land to the Road last mentioned, thence on said Road and Sherborn Road to the bounds first mentioned." The Pratt land by the middle of the last century had passed into the hands of the Rices.

West of the Chub and Pratt property Ephraim Jackson owned land to the Weston line. This was largely bought by Enoch Fisk whose son Isaiah sold to Emery and Moses Fisk, his cousins. Joseph E. Fiske of the last generation developed real estate, both inherited and bought.

The Lyons family owned land on Walnut East and now a large tract on Forest Street opposite the Country Club, part of it having once belonged to Otis Sawyer.

## LAND OWNERS

The Daniels property on Oakland Street was considerable and included land which later passed into the hands of the Bird, Colburn and Baneroft families.

The Wares, always large land owners, willed land "around Maugus Hill" as early as 1695. Ephraim Ware owned the Sheridan home and land around Rosemary Brook and on Brookside Road. Another branch of the family, Daniel Ware, owned land and built the homestead on Brook Street. Captain Reuben owned the house on Walnut Street now occupied by the Newton Ice Company. Ware property is still owned by the family in Wellesley Hills Square and on Maugus Hill, though not inherited from the original Ware owner.

The Fuller land has been for generations on Forest Street, Great Plain Avenue and Wellesley Avenue as far as the Wellesley Square. The original grant was probably in the Natick dividend of 1659, and some of this land is still in the Fuller family, coming down through inheritance. The first Fuller home was built beyond the Wellesley line in Needham, opposite the house of Mr. McIntosh on Great Plain Avenue.

The Kingsbury original grant of 1699 was held intact for many years by the family. The Town Farm, now the Country Club, was in the family for at least one hundred years, the last Kingsbury owner being Leonard. L. Allen Kingsbury of the last generation added the Dix land through marriage, and bought the "Bostonville" land and other holdings still in the family.

However the Bostonville land and the old house on Washington and Kingsbury Streets was purchased in 1841 by Daniel Ayer who bought it for speculation and advertised house lots for sale at auction. A church and a school were to be erected and excitement ran high. The only result seemed to be uncertain titles to land and much litigation in consequence. Ayer was the inventor of the patent medicine which bears his name.

Ward was an early settler, Ward's Lane, now Pond Street, running through his land.

The Stevens still own much of their original homestead on Worcester Street, inherited through the Gays.

The Hummewell land comes down from 1763 though first in the Natick limits, but Samuel Welles, and later his nephew John, had other holdings throughout the town from the present Country Club on the east to the Newton line on the south and the Natick line on the north.

Henry Wood, an early manufacturer and one of the first users, if not inventor, of cement for building purposes, owned the land now in the Abbott family on Linden Street. He moved his works from Boston to Newton Lower Falls, to the Rice place, but later removed to the Daniel Morse place where he not only carried on his business but lived there. In 1837 he sold his Linden Street property to the Arnold family (ancestors of the Shaw family), who sold to Henry Stone, who in his turn sold to Judge Abbott.

The Morse family owned land and houses opposite the Arch

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Bridge on Central Street near Natick, but the family has now intermarried with the Lovewells and Hathaways. Samuel Morse was the principal land owner in this part of the town until Needham Leg, where he lived, was annexed to Natick. Morse's Pond, once Broad's, was named for the family. Central Street ran very much nearer to the Morse house opposite the culvert.

The Mansfield family, one of whose descendants married William Bigelow of Natick, owned land near Worcester and Blossom (now Weston Road) Streets.

"Garfield land" is often found in looking up titles, for though the family are not now in the town<sup>1</sup> they owned real estate in the vicinity of Cedar Street for a great many years. Some of this came through the Ware family.

Of later land owners Charles Ayling and Clough R. Miles owned land and houses which they sold to A. R. Clapp who is developing that part of the "Hundreds" which until recently was still woodland.

The Rollins family in Wellesley and the Abbotts in Wellesley Hills began in the late nineties to develop their large holdings resulting in many desirable homes.

Henry Durant, through the Smiths, Morses and others, acquired the College Grounds. He, as well as the Abbotts and C. B. Dana, was taxed for real estate for a number of years as non-residents.

Today (1917) Isaac Sprague, Charles A. Dean, C. N. Taylor, Helen Temple Cooke and Arthur P. Dana are later and large land owners.

<sup>1</sup> Moses Garfield's tomb, dated 1817, is in the old burying ground in Needham.

## ITEMS FROM EARLY TOWN RECORDS

There is much interesting reading in the early Needham records about the doings of the town which, of course, were in line with the proceeding of New England towns in general.

Many of the old offices which we smile at or reappoint in jest from year to year, such as the hog reeves, deer reeves, field drivers, were very important and arduous offices in those days. Until 1781 the swine were allowed to run at large, by annual vote. After that they were allowed to do so if "well-yoked and ringed," at the discretion of the town meeting. Rams were early restrained. The "great and General Court," about 1780, ordered the towns "to vote each year whether horses, horse kind and neat cattle should be allowed to run at large without a keeper." Needham generally voted in the negative.

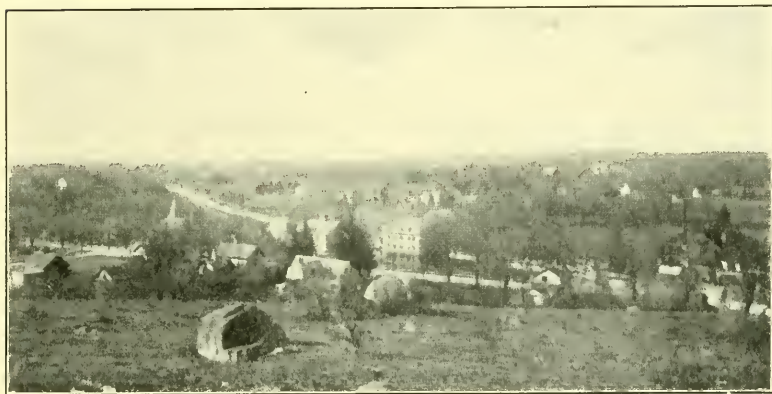
"Surveyors of bread" was a new office introduced after the Revolution.

During the war 3,000 pounds were voted for highways, as against 85 pounds in a subsequent year. Work on the highways was equivalent to paying a tax.





MAUGUS HILL FROM FOREST STREET  
(November, 1889)



VIEW FROM MAUGUS HILL  
(1889)





## ITEMS FROM EARLY TOWN RECORDS

The selectmen were recorded as paying out money for "running people out of town."

In 1732 it was "voted that four taverns should not be kept in town, it was voted that three taverns should not be kept in town, it was voted that two taverns should not be kept in town, it was voted that one tavern should not be kept in town."

In 1738 the town ammunition was kept in the meeting house, but in 1754 a house was built to keep the town stock of ammunition and arms.

March 13, 1738, it was "put to vote to see if the town would allow the women to have half the front seats in the galleries—passed in the negative." "It was put to vote to see if the town would have four pews raised in dignification. Namely, the old pews under the stairs and the two corner pews at the front door. Passed in the affirmative."

1765 it was voted to use Doctor Watts' hymns instead of Brady and Tate or "those composed to be sung in the Dissenting Churches and Congregations in New England."

In 1772 a bill was paid to Jonathan Ware for warning twenty-eight persons out of town. This may have been partly in accordance with an old law by which the selectmen were authorized to decide if persons visiting in town were likely to become town paupers, or probably as being undesirable in other ways.

In 1772 seven shillings, two pence, two farthings were paid for iron for stocks. Later a bill was paid of ten shillings to Jonathan Day for making and getting up the stocks.

It was voted in 1792 to establish a hospital for smallpox. In 1809 the town passed a vote to "inoculate for cow pox."

In 1798 a reward of sixteen cents was paid for each crow caught and killed, in 1814 it was raised to twenty-five cents.

"In the year 1813 the Legislature passed an act granting authority to certain persons to form a Fire Engine Company composed of residents of the Lower Falls, twenty-one in all, thirteen of whom should always be inhabitants of Newton, the others from Needham. The legislative act granted unusual powers to this Company which was called Cataract Engine Company, the members of which paid an admission fee of five dollars. Their tub was at first a wooden one, but afterwards replaced with copper. They purchased their own machine; also the buckets, then in common use at fires, and other paraphernalia. They adopted by-laws, and by authority of the Court, imposed penalties for their infringement. Though the temperance movement had not then commenced, stringent regulations were adopted to prevent the members of the Company from using spirituous liquor to an immoderate extent. This organization existed from 1812 until about 1840 when it came under the jurisdiction of the town of Newton." (S. F. Smith's "History of Newton.")

In 1846 a paper certifies that certain men, whose names are given as "members of Cataract Engine Company No. 1, having done their duty for the past year, their names are presented to the Select-

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

men that their poll tax may be refunded to them." This was probably after the separation of the fire companies of the two towns.

In financial accounts of the town we frequently find money paid to inn holders and individuals for refreshments served to firemen after fires.

The indications throughout the history of Needham are that the town was always poor—the minister's salary was generally in arrears and more than half the time we read that the town "voted not to send a representation to the General Court this year" due to the necessity of giving him a salary.

In 1825 thirteen hog reeves were chosen.

In 1833 \$1,807.93 was taken in by the town treasurer and \$1,771.89 was paid out. The amounts vary very little from this for several years.

In 1833 Fire wards were appointed for the first time, and in 1844 \$150 was voted for engines, \$60 for the Lower Falls, \$60 for East Needham and \$30 for Upper Falls.

In 1836 the following hand bill was printed:

### TO THE SNOW CONTRACTORS

The expense of Shovelling the road is so great, that I have caused Scrapers to be made, to be used with horses, and I wish you to use them in preference to shovelling. After a storm, or when the snow has drifted into the track, immediately pass over the road with the Scraper and THREE men. The Scraper clears a space wide enough, except where the drifts are three feet high and upwards, and it is only in such places that I wish you to shovel. When the snow and ice is so hard that the Scraper will not take it off, it must be shovelled. When a thaw takes place, go over your section and clear the drains, and if the thaw is suddenly checked, look to the flanges and clear the way for them.

*February 2, 1836.*

J. F. CURTIS, *Sup't.*

In 1844 it was voted that a notice of the town meeting should be sent to each family in town. A few years later it was voted that such notices should be posted in different parts of the town, probably superseding the previous vote.

In 1850 it was voted that the "assessors go over the town together taking the valuation."

Among the early moderators were represented the families of the Slacks, Wares, McIntoshes, Daniells, Flaggs, Rices.

An old paper gives the following contract between an employer and a seventeen-year-old boy bound as apprentice in 1818 for four years to Charles Rice, "to learn the act, trade or mystery" of Papermaker. "During all of which time the said secrets keep, his lawful commands duly obey. He shall do no damage to his said Master, nor suffer it to be done by others, shall not waste the goods of his said Master, nor lend them unlawfully to any. At cards, dice or any unlawful game by night from the service of his said Master without his leave, not haunt or frequent ale-houses, taverns

## EARLY SOCIETIES

or gaming-places. He shall not contract matrimony within the said term; nor shall he commit any acts of vice or immorality which are forbidden by the Laws of the Commonwealth; but, in all things, and at all times he shall carry and behave himself toward his said Master and all others, as a good and faithful apprentice ought to do, during all the term aforesaid." And Mr. Rice did "hereby covenant and promise to teach and instruct or cause the said apprentice to be instructed in the art, trade or calling of a paper-maker, by the best way or means that he may or can (if said apprentice be capable to learn) and, during the said term to find and provide unto the said Apprentice suitable board, washing and lodging—pay thirty dollars the first year, forty dollars the second year, fifty dollars the third year at suitable times in lieu of all clothing which the said — is to furnish for himself, or which are to be furnished by his father, the said —."

## EARLY SOCIETIES

Among the early societies in the last century we find the Newton, Natick and Needham Society for the Apprehending of Horse Thieves, established April 19, 1832. It does not seem to have flourished very long, but evidently was not financially embarrassed, as when it disbanded at Craft's Hotel (Elm Park) in April, 1831, each member received \$2.88 as his share from the general treasury.

The Norfolk Rifle Rangers, organized in 1832, were attached to the first regiment of the Second Brigade of the first division. They disbanded after a final parade at Kimball's Hotel, 1840.

The Needham Library in the east part was established in 1796.

The Needham Farmers' Library in the west established in 1852, with Alvin Fuller, 2d, as Librarian, with a room in his house lasted for a few years.

The Grantville Library Association, with a room in George D. Ware's house in the square, organized December 3, 1877, and opened July 13, 1878, was disbanded when the Hunnewell Library was presented to the town. The High School students took turns at one time in being librarians, but Miss Belle Townsend and Miss Sarah Batchelder were librarians for permanent and longer periods.

The West Needham Library in the upper village was organized in the '50's and at one time had a room in Nehoiden Block where the present Waban Block stands. (Frank Fuller, the son of Augustus Fuller, had a grocery store underneath, and lived with his family in the cottage now occupied by the Carriers.) The Library continued its existence until the Town Library was opened. One of the librarians was Gilbert Webber now a doctor, whose father built the Durants' home. The library association held fairs and raised money in this way to meet expenses. At one time they gave one hundred dollars to the Congregational Church for books. Many pleasant social times were enjoyed by the association and their friends.

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

The trees which beautify Washington Street in Wellesley Hills were planted by a Tree Society in the '50's and '60's. It included among its members John Curtis, John Shaw, Reuben Ware and Dexter Ware.

The Lyceum has long passed out of memory, but Sarah Southwick, Seth Dewing, Deacon Batchelder, the "Rice girls," L. Allen Kingsbury, "Ned" Atwood, C. B. Patten, D. D. Dana were almost always on hand to make pithy and keen comments on all subjects. Tradition says that in ante-bellum times, no matter what the topic for the evening, the Southwicks always brought the discussion around to Abolition.

The Grantville Dramatic Club flourished from 1871 to 1881 most successfully for all the community.

For several years until January 14, 1882, there was a Grantville Street Light Association which on that date presented "to the town of Wellesley all lamps, lamp-posts, and such other fixtures belonging to said association, used for the purpose of lighting street lamps, for the use of the town for ever."

Meridian Lodge, now in Natick, was instituted September 5, 1798, in Watertown. For some time its headquarters were at the house at the corner of River and Washington Streets, owned by General Rice, later by John Pulsifer and now by James Early. The upper floor was a hall, on the walls of which were painted the masonic emblems. June 10, 1811, the Lodge was moved to Smith's Tavern at the junction of Washington Street and Worcester Turnpike (Elm Park).

In 1872 the Abbott Post had forty-one members and met the first Monday of the month at Waban and Parker Halls alternately. July 29, 1873, the town "voted that the treasurer be authorized to convey to Abbott Post, Grand Army of the Republic, a certain lot of land in Grantville for the sum of one dollar, on condition that a hall be erected on said land for purposes of the Post, said land to revert to the town when the needs of the Post shall cease." The land was not used and reverted to the town.

The Wellesley Soldiers' Club succeeded the Post, a permanent organization being made September 4, 1875. Meetings were held for years at Waban Hall, and occasionally at homes of members. For several years they had a room in the present Manual Arts Building. Today the few members who are still living have charge of the exercises Memorial Day.

## GENEALOGIES OF SOME OF THE OLDER RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN

Caroline Elizabeth (DEWING) Wise is the ninth child and third daughter of Seth Dewing (Nathan Ebenezer Henry Andrew Andrew) and the sister of Joseph Haven Dewing whose widow lives on Grove Street.

The first Andrew was received into the first church of Dedham,

## GENEALOGIES OF OLDER RESIDENTS

February 19, 1646. He settled in that part of Dedham which was set off as Needham in 1711. His name appears in Whitman's *History of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company* as a member from Natick in 1644; that was probably because he resided nearer that place than the settlement at Dedham, on what was later known as the Ridge Hill Farm, part, if not all of which was owned by the Dewing descendants until 1811. His second wife, Ann Donstall, whom he married October 10, 1652, was the mother of his grown-up children. He died September 16, 1677. His will is long and minute; in it he gives his oldest son Andrew (born November 26, 1655, died January 14, 1717/18, married October 27, 1682, Dorothy Hyde) all but twenty acres of his land in the Natick dividend. The second Andrew also acquired grants of other lands from the town of Dedham. He was a petitioner for the incorporation of the town of Needham.

His son Henry (born October 16, 1690, died March 21, 1765, married December 4, 1716, in Roxbury, Mehitable, daughter of Eleazar and Mehitable (Thurston) Ellis, born May 13, 1695, died May 17, 1750). His son Ebenezer was born October 10, 1725, died November 26, 1766, married in 1753, in Boston, Isabella Brownley.

He probably lived at the homestead of his father who gave him land in 1753. He received additional land on his father's death. His son Nathan was born February 8, 1758, died December 17, 1831, married (1) June 7, 1780, Elizabeth, probably daughter of Thomas and Rebecca Broad of Natick who died between 1800 and 1803 at about the age of thirty-five years. He was in the Revolutionary War, serving in the expedition to Quebec, having first enrolled as a member of the Natick company under command of Capt. James Mann, Col. Samuel Bullard's regiment. Later he was in the Continental Army under Gen. Washington at Trenton and Princeton. Later he served in Capt. Aaron Smith's company, Col. Benj. Gill's regiment, serving 3 months, 27 days, and again in Capt. Luke Howell's company, Col. Nathan Tyler's regiment for 3 months, 13 days, as sergeant. After the war he received the title of Captain in the Massachusetts State Militia.

December 28, 1811, he sold about 200 acres of land to Ethel Jennings which was probably the last of the homestead property which had been in the family for four generations. He then removed to the easterly part of the town where he remained until his death.

His son Seth was born September 6, 1788, died January 7, 1883, at the residence of his son Joseph H. Seth married, April 10, 1815, Olive, daughter of Ezra (Jesse Moses Nathaniel) and Mary (Glover) Haven, born September 12, 1791, in Framingham, died January 4, 1882. He was a carpenter by trade, going to sea as such in 1810, and worked also in Needham and Newton Upper and Lower Falls, until 1815, when he became postmaster at North Needham, and also dealt in the West India goods trade. Later he lived in Boston, retiring from business in 1869 and returning to Wellesley. He was for several years Master of Meridian Lodge when it was located in North Needham.



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

His son Seth, born August 8, 1820, died January 3, 1895, at the home of his sister, Mrs. Dexter Kingsbury (Mary Ann, born September 29, 1818, married, April 9, 1840, Dexter, son of Luther and Almira (Morse) Kingsbury, died (1906). He married, August 24, 1863, Mary T. W., daughter of William S. and Elizabeth (Holbrook) Beal, born January 30, 1832, in Milton, died August 31, 1881, in Braintree. He taught in the academy at Wrentham with L. Allen Kingsbury; at Westboro, and for twenty years the grammar school. His brother, Joseph Haven, born July 14, 1831, in Charlestown, died July 2, 1890, in Wellesley. He married (1) April 7, 1864, Mrs. Sophia Abbie (Grant) Kingsbury, widow of Hamilton Kingsbury, born January 17, 1834, died September 4, 1874. He married (2) April 21, 1885, E. Marietta, daughter of Albert and Emily (Kingsbury) Smith, born September 11, 1837. He enlisted in Company C, 43d regiment Massachusetts volunteers for nine months, and was discharged as sergeant July 30, 1863.

Maria Willet Howard (Mrs. Aubrey Hilliard) is the granddaughter of Reuben Dewing (Elijah, Ebenezer, Henry, Andrew, Andrew) whose daughter Mary Jane was born February 9, 1840, and died in Braintree, October 31, 1874. She married, October 16, 1861, William H., son of William and Maria (Willet) Howard. Reuben Dewing was born February 12, 1805, in Bellingham, Mass., and died in 1858. He married Mary, daughter of William and Sally (Parker) Eames, born August 30, 1809, in Holliston, and died February, 1846.

His father, Elijah, was born July 11, 1761, in Needham, died September 10, 1844, in Medway. He married May 14, 1788, Betty Reed, who also died September 10, 1844. He was in the War of the Revolution, serving for short periods at various times.

FISKE, Joseph Emery (Emery, Moses, Moses, Moses, Nathaniel, Nathan) born October 23, 1839, died February 22, 1909, was the son of Eunice Morse (Adam, Samuel, Samuel, Samuel, Daniel) and Emery Fiske. He married (1) Ellen Maria Ware (Dexter, Daniel, Josiah, Nathaniel) and (2) Abby Sawyer Hastings (Rufus, Stephen, John, Daniel, Samuel) of Sterling, Massachusetts. He graduated from Harvard in 1861, served in the 43d Regiment as sergeant and in the 2d Heavy Artillery as Captain. He was State Senator in 1874-76 and, like his father, filled many town offices.

Ellen Ware Fiske, born January 14, 1871, daughter of Ellen Maria (Ware) and Joseph Emery Fiske, lives at the Fiske home-  
stead, built by her great-great-great-uncle Enoch (Moses, Nathaniel, Nathan) in 1804 for his son Isaiah. This house was bought in 1834 by Emery and Moses, the latter soon selling out his share to Emery. Enoch lived in the house built by himself on Oakland Street, now on the Catholic school grounds. The family of Fiskes resided in the Leg, Framingham, and Needham from a very early date, having come from Watertown where they had settled in 1634.

Isabella Howe (Fiske) Conant, born April 29, 1874, is the daughter of Abby (Hastings) and Joseph Emery Fiske, and the wife of Walter A. Conant.

## GENEALOGIES OF OLDER RESIDENTS

The FULLER families of the town trace their ancestry back to Ensign Thomas of Dedham, but do so in two distinct lines.

Charles E. Fuller, professor of Mechanical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, electric light and water commissioner of Wellesley and on many important committees, and one of the most prominent of the older families is the son of Edward G. (Augustus, Captain Jonathan, William, Robert, Jr., Robert, John, Thomas) and Frances P. (Farnum) Fuller. Mr. Fuller married Addie, daughter of Charles P. and Martha J. (Fuller—Jonathan, Capt. Jonathan, William, Robert, Jr., Robert, John, Thomas) Withington.

G. Clinton Fuller and Ada (Fuller) Moulton are the children of Edwin (Alvin, William, Robert, Jr., Robert, John, Thomas) and Malvina Almira (Parker) Fuller.

Ada Fuller married William Moulton whose ancestry is traced through the Hunting side.

Frank Louis Fuller, Edward Ware Fuller, Ellen Mabel Fuller, Jeanette (widow of Charles Bixby) are the children of Hezekiah (Deacon Hezekiah, Solomon, Lt. Amos, Thomas, Ensign Thomas) and Emmeleine (Jackson—Ephraim, Samuel, Edward, Edward, Sebas, Edward) Fuller.

Deacon Hezekiah was one of the founders of the Grantville Church. He originally lived in the upper village, on the present Rollins place. Hezekiah, the younger, was a carpenter, and among the houses that he built were the Wellesley Hills Congregational parsonage and the Fuller house on the corner of Washington Street and Woodlawn Avenue. His wife belonged to the Jackson family of Newton, who owned much property on both sides of the river, the Fiske homestead coming through the Jackson heirs as well as the town farm in West Newton.

Mrs. Ellen E. (FLAGG,) Sawyer the daughter of William and Martha (Winch) Flagg and sister of Samuel Brown (William, Solomon, Solomon, Gershom, Benjamin, Thomas) Flagg, whose widow Caroline (Kingsbury, Luther, Joseph, Jesse, Josiah, Eleazar, Joseph and daughter Martha live on Cottage Street is the widow of R. K. Sawyer.

William, brother of Samuel, married Mary Beck and their son, H. Lasselle, married (1) Annie M., and their son, Howard, lives in Wellesley. Edward Flagg (Eben, Elisha, Solomon, Solomon, Gershom, Benjamin, Thomas) has a son, Walter, by his first wife, Emily Woodward.

"Uncle Solomon," the son of the second Solomon, has no descendants in town, but he was the best known of the family. His mother was Esther Brown and his grandfather, Solomon (who married Lydia Ware) lived at first in a small house off Dover Street. Later he built the "Eben Flagg" house on Central Street and another long, low one, very similar to it, about where the Episcopal Rectory now stands. Later he erected the house at the corner of Washington and Church Streets, where he kept a tavern.

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

"Uncle Solomon" was town clerk for many years in the old town of Needham and when Wellesley was set off he served in the same capacity from 1881-1888. His handwriting was unusually legible and his books were marvels of neatness. He was a tenor singer of considerable prominence and led the choir of the Wellesley Congregational Church for many years. Tradition tells that a stranger came into the church one morning who also possessed a leading tenor voice. To the great amusement of the congregation the morning hymns soon became a contest of strength and endurance between Mr. Flagg and the stranger, with honors finally for the home town.

Miss Abbie HUNTING of Cottage Street is the only one of the family name now living in the town. Her father, Israel (Daniel, Stephen, John, John) married Rhoda Dewing.

Louisa, a sister of Miss Hunting, married James Moulton, and their sons are James Francis, who married Mary Boyd, and Willard, who married Ada, daughter of Edwin Fuller.

The ancestor, Elder John of the Dedham Church, owned land in the Hundreds in the 1699 grant. An old Hunting house lived in by Charles McIntosh, and now remodelled by Mr. Sprague, may have been on the extreme southeast boundary of the old grant.

The Welles family, residents of the town as early as 1763, and large land owners always, married into the HUNNEWELL family of Watertown, and thus transferred name and land titles to that family. Isabella Pratt, daughter of John (Arnold, Samuel, Samuel, Samuel, Thomas) and Abigail (Welles—Samuel, Samuel, Samuel, Samuel, Thomas) Welles married Horatio Hollis, son of Dr. Walter (Richard, Charles, Charles, Richard, Roger) and Susanna (Cooke) Hunnewell.

Their descendants are:

(A) Hollis married Louisa Bronson and their children are: Hollis, Horatio and Charlotte Bronson. Hollis married (1) Maud S. Jaffray and their children are Louisa B. and Maud J. He married (2) Mary (1) (Kemp) (Neilson) and their child is Hollis. Charlotte married Victor Sorehan and their child is Louisa B.

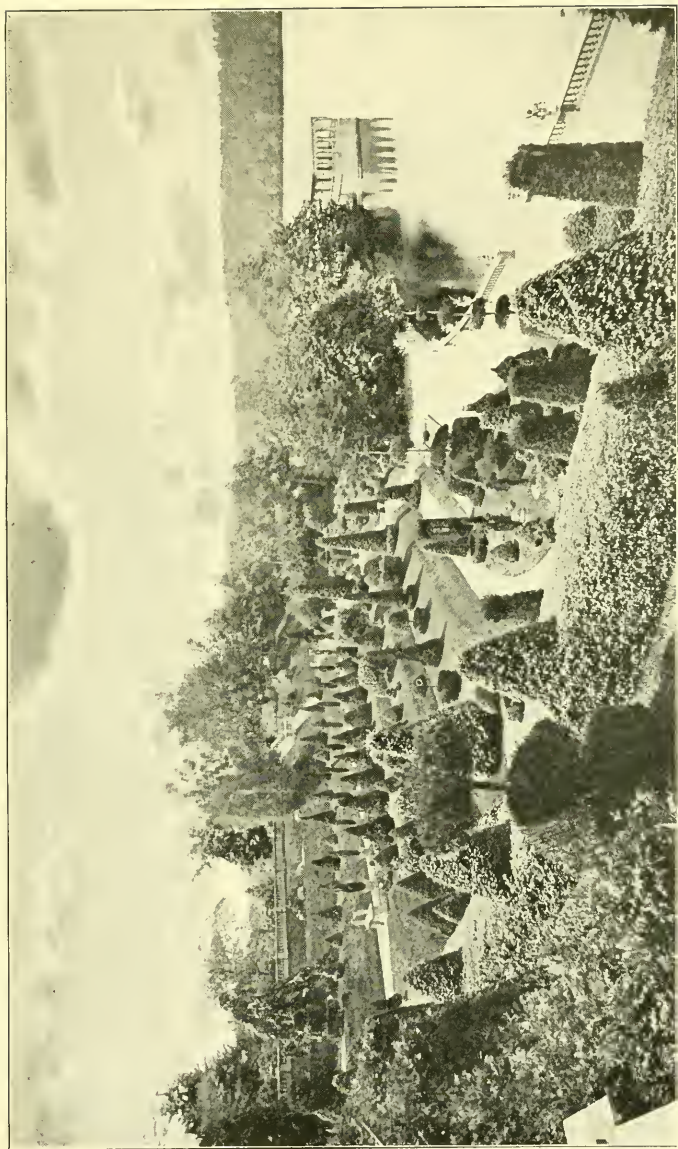
(B) Francis Welles married (1) Margaret L. Fassitt and (2) Gertrude C. Sturgis.

(C) John Welles married Pauline E. Perche and had John A. and Francis A. (unmarried). John A. married (1) Martha Stolz and had John W. W. and Albert A. F. and (2) Bertha Schmitt and had Harry H.

(D) Susan died in infancy

(E) Walter married Jane A. Peele, and their children are: Mary P., Sarah P., who died in infancy, Walter Jr., Francis Welles, Willard P., who died at eighteen, Louisa and Arnold Welles. Mary P. married Sydney M. Williams, and their children are: Mary P., Sydney M., Jane P. and Richard M. Walter Jr., married Minna C. Lyman, and their child is Caroline A.

(F) Arthur married Jane Hubbard Boit and their children are:



THE HUNNEWELL GARDENS





## GENEALOGIES OF OLDER RESIDENTS

Isabella, Jane Boit, Julia Overing and Margaret Fassitt. Isabella married (1) Herbert M. Harriman and (2) James S. Barclay. Margaret married George Baty Blake, and their children are: Margaret and Julia O.

(G) Isabella Pratt married Robert Gould and their children are: Susan Welles, Hollis H., Theodore L. and Arthur H. Susan married John C. Lee, and their children are: Isabella, Lucy H. and Pauline Agassiz; Hollis married Anna F. Driscoll; Theodore married Lillian A. Donahue; Arthur married Acrata von Schrader.

(H) Jane Welles married Francis William Sargent and their children are: Jane Welles, Francis Williams, Alice, who died young, Henry Jackson, Daniel, Margaret Williams and Ruth who died young. Jane married Dr. David Cheever, and their children are: David, Francis and Charles E. Francis W. married Margery Lee and their child is Francis W.

(I) Henry Sargent married Mary Bowditch Whitney and their children are: Christiana, Henry S., who died in infancy, Gertrude and Mary. Christiana married Nelson S. Bartlett, Jr., and their children are: Nelson S. Bartlett 3rd and Christiana.

The KINGSBURY family have long been prominent in town affairs and there is still a large family connection. Of the fourteen children of Luther (Joseph, Jesse, Josiah, Eleazar, Joseph) and Almira (Morse, Joseph, David, Captain Joseph, Samuel) Kingsbury, eleven grew up and married. Allen married (1) in 1848 Mary Jane Dix and (2) in 1872 Charlotte Sawyer daughter of Otis Sawyer. Both of his wives were school teachers in the village as well as himself. He was on the school board for fourteen years and was the first to advocate and insist on music being taught in the schools. He was the holder of much real estate in the village. His children are Florence who married L. M. Grant, and Frank A., Herbert and Mowry, the three latter not living in town.

Lewis married Eliza Cloudman. Their son Harry is chief of police of the town. He married Katherine Carey and they have three children: Luther, John and Katherine. Lewis' widow and daughter Mary live on Forest Street. The other daughter Ella is the widow of Joseph E. Peabody a town official for many years and son of Ezekiel Peabody, formerly town warden. Her children are Harry L., Marion and Estelle who is the wife of Theodore Parker of Salt Lake City.

Dexter married Mary Ann Dewing (Seth Andrew) and their children are: Fred H., Francis M. the widow of Lucius and Emma O. Fred married Edith Nelson who is not living. He was town clerk for a great many years. He lives with his daughter Elizabeth on Wellesley Avenue. Hamilton married Sophia Grant and their family does not live in town.

Of the daughters Almira married Richard Parker and their daughter Nellie lives on Wellesley Avenue, and son Walter who married Katherine Stoker lives on Clifford Street. Emily married Albert Smith and their daughter Marietta is the second wife



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

and widow of Joseph H. Dewing. Harriet married T. Willis Parmenter, Sophronia married Harvey Brown, Marian married George Russell, Maria married William L. Clarke (whose family once owned the property now belonging to the Academy of the Assumption) and their daughter Anna M. lives on Wellesley Avenue. Caroline married Samuel Flag and with her daughter Martha lives on Cottage Street.

The house on the lower corner of Kingsbury and Washington Streets was a very old Kingsbury home and was on the original "Hundreds" grant of 1699, and built by Jesse Kingsbury. The "Brick end" house now owned by the Andrews family was the Luther Kingsbury home where perhaps all of his children were born with the exception of Dexter who was born in a house where the Wellesley Hills station now is.

Another branch of the Kingsbury family, extinct as far as is known were the children of Joseph and Nancy (Bacon) Kingsbury, first cousins of Luther's family, Luther and Joseph being brothers. These children were William, Nancy, Joseph, Charles and Charlotte. The two latter are remembered as living in the Kingsbury house on Linden Street, now owned by E. H. Fay.

Mrs. Charles E. Shattuck (Emily Kingsbury) was the daughter of Annie Bliss (Holmes) and Leonard Kingsbury (Leonard Jonathan, Caleb, Josiah, Eleazar, Joseph), who was the owner of the town farm and adjacent land.

On Dover Street live Charles, Rebecca and Eliza, children of Eliza (Reynolds) and William Deming Kingsbury (Moses, Moses, Timothy, Timothy, Joseph). These Kingsburys originally came from the east side, but their grandmother, Lucy Deming, wife of Moses Kingsbury, was the daughter of Esther (daughter of the Rev. Oliver Peabody, the first minister settled over the Natick Indians) and William Deming. Another daughter, Rebecca, married Thomas Noyes, the first minister of the West Needham parish. The two brothers, Dr. William and Jonathan, owned much of what is now Wellesley Square on both sides of Washington Street as far as Kingsbury Street and back to the Fuller land on Wellesley Avenue. The Jonathan Deming house was back of the lilacs where the old cellar hole is on the library grounds, and was lived in later by the minister and his wife, the latter being the niece of this Mr. Deming. William Deming lived in the house opposite, now destroyed, and replaced by the Mansard roofed dwelling, once owned by Professor A. H. Buck, now by Boston University.

An Isaac Deming also owned land on Dover Street where Dr. E. H. Wiswall is now located.

Edward and William LYON who own and live on the Lyon farm opposite the present Country Club are sons of William, who with his brother Lemuel owned land on Walnut Street for a great many years. Their grandfather Lemuel lived in Milton and traces through Jacob to Benjamin who lived in Milton, the original home of the Lyons in this part of the country.

## GENEALOGIES OF OLDER RESIDENTS

Arnold LIVERMORE and Mrs. Edward W. Perkins (Faith Perkins) and their children are the descendants of the Livermore, Arnold, Hoogs and Shaw families. Their father, Oliver C. Livermore, was a captain in the Civil War and had an especially brave record. He served as selectman and in various other civic capacities. His father Elisha (Elisha, Amos, Oliver, Daniel, Samuel, John) married Faith Hoogs, the daughter of George W. (William) and Faithful (Seaverns) Hoogs. Faithful Seaverns was the seventh child of Joseph (Samuel, Samuel, Samuel) and Elizabeth (Stratton) Seaverns.

Captain Livermore married Georgiana SHAW, the daughter of George and Sarah (Arnold) Shaw. In Mrs. Livermore's father's generation there were thirteen brothers and sisters, children of Caleb (Samuel, Joseph, Caleb, Roger) and Betsy (Brown) Shaw. "Uncle" James and "Uncle" John Shaw were two of the brothers who were prominent village characters in the past generation, interested in all civic advancement and improvement, John Shaw giving the bell and clock to the school which bears the Shaw name.

Mrs. George Shaw's family, the Arnolds, held considerable property in the town, the Southwick place once belonging to Joseph Arnold, and the Gamaliel Bradford place to Ambrose Arnold.

Lucy Seaward married (1) John Shaw, son of Sarah (Arnold) and George Shaw, twin brother of Mrs. Oliver Livermore, and (2) Herbert Kingsbury, son of L. Allen and Jane (Dix) Kingsbury. Mrs. Joshua Baker is the daughter of the first marriage.

The MORSE family, prominent for many years in Natick and the "Leg" is represented in this town principally by the Hathaway and Lovewell families.

Rebecca Morse (Daniel, Henry, Daniel, Henry, Daniel, Daniel, Daniel, Samuel) born in 1824, married Harrison Hathaway in 1848 and lived at the corner of Central and Weston Road until her death in 1916. Her son, Eugene Hathaway makes his home in Porto Rico.

Mrs. Hathaway's sister Martha married C. B. Lovewell in 1847. Their daughters were Mrs. Thomas Ferguson (Mary Lovewell) and Mrs. Herbert A. Joslin (Nora Lovewell) who lives on Washington Street. The sons are Charles Herbert and S. H.

The third generation is represented by Jeanette and Ellen Ferguson, Walter Lovewell.

The Lovewell family came from Weston and at one time owned much of the property around Cottage Street, formerly known as Lovewell Place.

Mrs. L. Allen Kingsbury (Charlotte SAWYER) and Mrs. E. H. Stanwood were the daughters of Charlotte (Boynton) and Otis Sawyer of Foxboro. Their brother, Mowry, lives in New Jersey, and recently (1915) gave land on Forest Street to the town, known as Sawyer Park.

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

The Sawyer family owned and lived on the property on Forest Street now owned by the Convalescent Home, once known as the Metcalf farm.

The STEVENS family first settled here when Sibell Gay, daughter of Jeremiah, married, October 18, 1759, Ephraim Stevens of Holden. Through her the old "school lot," previously referred to, of three hundred acres bought by her grandfather Jonathan Gay of Dedham came into the Stevens family, who still own much of it. Tradition says that the Stevens also owned considerable land in Sudbury at even an earlier period.

Francis H. Stevens, one of the substantial citizens of the town, is the son of Augustus (Timothy, Ephraim, Ephraim, Cyprian, Cyprian, Thomas, Col. Thomas) and Ann Eliza (Fuller) Stevens. Augustus held town offices for a great many years and was superintendent of streets when the town was divided. Other children by his first wife are Willis who lives in the South, and Anna, who married Charles H. Palmer. His second wife and widow was Mary Evans and is the mother of Gertrude, Arthur and Orrin Stevens. They live on Washington Street, Wellesley. Francis H. Stevens married Frances I. Alden and their daughter Susie Mae is the wife of Malcolm G. Wight.

Abel Stevens and his sisters Caroline (widow of Chester H. Felch) and Susan live on the homestead on Worcester Street, inherited from their father Franklin (Captain Abel, Ephraim, Ephraim, Cyprian, Cyprian, Thomas, Col. Thomas).

Frankline H. Stevens, nephew of Abel and son of the late Herbert J., married Lydia Day of Boston. They have two children and live in Wellesley Hills. Two sisters are married and live out of town.

George Dexter WARE, born in Needham, January 7, 1833, died November 7, 1916, was the son of Mary Colburn (Smith—George, Aaron, Jonathan, John, Christopher) and Dexter Ware (Daniel, Joshua, Nathaniel, Robert). Dexter was born in Needham, October 27, 1797, and died October 20, 1851. He was killed by the cars in West Needham. He was one of the founders of the Grantville church. His father Daniel was born May 19, 1755, and died October 20, 1819. He served as orderly sergeant in the Revolutionary army for two terms of three months each. He married, September 16, 1784, Abigail Newell, daughter of Ebenezer (Josiah, Isaac, Abraham) and Elizabeth (Allen) Newell, born in Dover, November 24, 1764, died April 20, 1849. His father Josiah was born in Wrentham, March 21, 1707, and died in Needham, July 3, 1798, having moved there soon after he was twenty-one. He married four times, but this line is traced back to his marriage with Dorothy, daughter of Andrew (Andrew, Andrew) and Abigail (Fisher) Dewing, born May 31, 1721, and died January 26, 1756. His father, Nathaniel Ware, was the second son of the "immigrant" and was born in Dedham, October 12, 1670. He married, in Wrentham, October 12, 1696, Mary "Wheelak." Robert came to Massachusetts before the autumn of

## SOCIAL LIFE AT WELLESLEY

1642, as he is found in the Dedham records November 25, 1642. The "Great" or Dedham Island probably became his house lot. Among other grants of land made to him in this vicinity were on Rosemary Meadow Brook, on the Great Plain, and near Maugus Hill, which latter he left to his son Ephraim. His first wife and the mother of his children was Margaret Hunting, daughter of John Hunting, first ruling elder of the Dedham church, and of his wife, Esther Seaborne, whom he married March 24, 1645.

Ware descendants living in Wellesley are Caroline Ware (Batchelder) daughter of Rebecca Ann (Ware, Dexter, Daniel, Josiah, Nathaniel, Robert) and Henry Batchelder (John, John, Benjamin, Thomas, Nathaniel, Nathaniel, Stephen) and widow of C. C. Henry; and Ellen Ware Fiske, daughter of Ellen Maria (Ware—Dexter, Daniel, Josiah, Nathaniel, Robert) and Joseph E. Fiske.

Mrs. George White (Frances Mary Edwena NOYES) is the widow of Judge White of the Probate Court at Dedham, who died in 1899, and is the daughter of Clarissa (Slack—Benjamin, John, Benjamin, William) and Edward (Thomas, Thomas, Daniel, Joseph) Noyes. Edward Noyes' father was Thomas the first minister of the West precinct, and his mother was Rebecca the daughter of Dr. William and Esther (Peabody) Deming. On her mother's side Mrs. White's grandmother was Sarah Kingsbury of Needham.

Mrs. White's children are Mary Hawthorne, wife of Clarence A. Bunker, George Rantoul who married Irma M. Clapp and Edward Noyes who married Ruth Kellogg. Mrs. Bunker's children are Raymond, Lawrence and Miriam. Edward's son is Sidney.

## SOCIAL LIFE AT WELLESLEY

*(A Paper read at the Wellesley Club, Dec. 16, 1899.)*

The subject assigned to me for this evening naturally includes about all there is of interest in the history and present conditions in the town, as it is impossible to discuss the social and political condition of the community without including religious, educational and material conditions likewise. This evidently is not intended for me to do and I must be content to call attention in a brief manner to a few incidental items of the social and political conditions in the town in the past and present.

The town was till quite lately a part of Needham, and originally of Dedham, whose first settlers were English, coming to Dedham after a brief stay in Watertown. They, like many settlers in New England towns, were no doubt impatient of control by others, and desired their own form of government.

The early economic details in the settlement of the territory, comprising our town, would afford a text for George, or Bellamy, or Adams Smith, or the German or French economists, but I will not take farther time than to say that lands were divided by the first settlers of Dedham from whom all the old families of our town are

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

descended, first, so that each should have a house lot of twelve acres (the house not necessarily upon it), second, certain amount of pasture rights (not ownership), and third, certain interest in arable land and later on in woodland. These interests were apportioned equally as regards the house lot, the more cows a man owned the more pasture he had, the more servants he employed the more acres he had to till. The abler man he was (the general capacity was taken into account in the division) the more fortunate in feudal ownership.

In passing I think I may refer to the division of woodland as of local interest. In 1685 the land lying between the Weston line and the Sherburne Road, so called (i. e. the old Indian trail from Nonantum to Natick, now Walnut, Washington, Linden, Washington again with some variations in Wellesley village), was divided by parallel lines into strips of one hundred acres each, and assigned to the Proprietors of Dedham, and called the "Hundreds Divident." This abbreviated to "The Hundreds" is the origin of the now popular name of a most attractive residential part of the town.

With these privileges of ownership and occupation came also duties each freeman owed to the community. He was obliged to live within the radius of a certain center, not over half a mile away, for his own and the general protection. He was obliged to clean a certain amount of land each year so that there might be less protection afforded to noxious animals, and more arable land for cultivation and pasture; to clear the streams and rivers of brush, so that there might be less overflow; to assist in building roads and bridges, and to be prepared for military duties. Many matters of public concern, which are now done by delegated authority, and paid for out of the public funds raised by taxation, were, in our early history, and indeed within the memory of many now living, done by the individual or by an especially assigned tax. The road tax was a general thing worked out by the inhabitants even within my memory, and even our old ministers appeared in working clothes doing a good and effective day's work. An unwritten law required cooperation in all work of importance of all the neighborhood, as for instance in a "raising" everybody turned out, and the house, barn or church, with their heavy timbers, went up in a day, and the jollification of the working together, the provisions, the liquors, perhaps paid for the time given. If a bridge was built and heavy stones were hauled the ox teams turned out by the score, and there was great rivalry to see who could make the best display. The fact, too, that all were actively enrolled in the militia and had training days and muster, brought people into close contact and acquaintance. The semi-business gatherings, with the Sunday meetings which all attended, when in the intermission a great deal of visiting was done, a great deal of news exchanged, a great deal of sympathy shown, afforded a relief to what otherwise would have been unendurable hardship and unrelenting labor.

The curious feature in our early history was the aversion to



## SOCIAL LIFE AT WELLESLEY

accession from without, and quite early steps were taken to discourage immigration, and until comparatively recent years the population was confined in the main to the descendants of the early settlers.

There was no doubt at all that the settlers were poor as compared with the other communities, many things showing this—one being the absence today of fine old houses of the colonial period in the town, no large trees in clusters to show where once some persons of taste, wealth and authority, lived one hundred years ago, as well as the known fact that the farmers who comprised nearly the whole community, did not cultivate large tracts of ground, and depended chiefly upon their sale of wood, bark, hoop-poles and fag-gots to supply themselves with the necessities they could not raise. But they were public spirited, patriotic and free men; shown by their enlistment under the King in the French and Indian wars and prompt service at the outbreak of the Revolution when a company from Wellesley (as well as another from Needham) appeared in time to lose men by death and wounds at Menotomy, (Arlington), and by their faithful continuance during the whole war.

About 1700 a mill was built at the Lower Falls, another mill followed but the chief business of the town was farming and working in the woods. As Boston developed the farmers more and more sent their produce to the capital and changed gradually their methods of production to suit the demands of their customers.

The first great economic change in the town was caused by the building of the Boston and Worcester railroad, making closer connection with Boston and the West possible, and what had more direct effect upon the community, introducing new laborers and a different class of men. It is said that for a hundred years at least there was only one Irishman within the limits of the township of Dedham. But now many came over, assisted in the building of the road, settled here and remain to this day in their descendants, some of whom are members with us, and all I believe have done their share in developing the town.

Later on in 1848, at the building of the Cochituate Water Works, a fresh tide from the same source came and settled with us and they with their descendants have for many years done a large share of the hard manual labor in the town.

In 1763 the Welles family, of titled if not royal descent, came to town and made large purchases of land and since that time this family has had large influence in shaping the material affairs of the community. Other families have been still longer identified with the town,—the Kingsburys, for instance, one of whom, a colonel in the militia, was a delegate to the provincial congress; the Wares, of whom Joseph kept a journal, relied upon as an authority, of the expedition to Quebec; the Dewings, one of whom was probably the first white man to build a house for his own occupancy within the limits of the town; the Fullers, early settlers, with good records of public service and private worth from the beginning to this day. The Slacks, with their connections with the



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Noyes family with their descendants and alliances, maintain their prestige of solid and helpful influence; as well as many others, the Stevens, the Flaggs, all of these seem to retain as an inherited and preserved legacy the right to be respected and followed. I ought also to refer to Dr. W. G. Morton, a former resident of this town, who is entitled to the credit of the adoption of ether in surgical operations.

A marked social feature of the town for many years was caused by the reputation given to the western part of the town by specialists as a health resort for people with tendencies to weakness of the lungs. Hundreds of people have made their residence here because the alternative seemed to be Heaven, and while we felt complimented by their choice their presence in the past sometimes had a very depressing effect on the neighborhood, especially as funerals were somewhat too frequent. But since Dr. Bowditch has purchased land in Sharon and has discovered that Wellesley has become damp and unsuitable for consumptives our bill of mortality has visibly decreased. Another curiosity of our habitat, at one time, was the presence of an abnormal number of sea captains, at another of ministers without charge. One character who was with us whom I can just remember must not be omitted, as his reputation, thanks to Mrs. Stowe, is world wide,—Sam Lawton—(Lawson).

The persons who have had the most influence in determining the future of the town are Mr. and Mrs. Durant in the establishment and the endowment of Wellesley College, which has already given the name of Wellesley a world wide reputation and yet has hardly begun to show its influence in the town. As the institution grows older and wider in its scope Professors will locate with their families outside the enclosure; people desirous to avail themselves of the benefits of the college will settle here; parents will come to educate their children and its general reputation will draw people in sympathy with it and we shall have the presence of a distinctly literary class of people.

It is quite within my memory that the town has become attractive to men whose business takes them to Boston every day. For many years previous to 1870 or even later, families would come here, stay a short time, two or three years perhaps, and would go away to be followed by others of the same kind, and the old settlers gradually took this for granted. But of late there has not been nearly as much change in the personnel of the population, a great advantage socially. The class of people coming are more substantial, financially, and of course the place with the additions of trains, introductions of water, and many social privileges is becoming more and more attractive. We owe our improvement to the general improvement of the country, the increase of population, the increase of wealth, and the improvement in our own finances and accessions from without.

The 59's and 60's brought the first signs of the more modern elements into our social life; some bright, fresh young men took

## SOCIAL LIFE AT WELLESLEY

an interest in affairs, the schools received more attention, and there was a general shaking up. Not that everything that was done was the wisest, but the activity was better than stagnation and lagging. The old Lyceum at Grantville and Unionville of those days bring to mind the names Patten Dana, Ware, Kingsbury, Lake, Atwood, Daniel, Leslie. It was largely attended and excited as much interest as anything of the kind ever did in the town. There were picnics and fishing excursions and a variety of celebrations in which all parts of the town joined. Social parties were frequent, but were not public and were confined to the younger people. There were Young Men's Christian Associations in the villages, and, during my remembrance, always church societies and church socials. There has been no time in the last fifty years that there has not been a public library in some quarter of the town, the first one I remember being at the North School house, a very good one too, though small.

The politics of the town of Wellesley historically considered are of little interest as distinct from that of national and state politics. The politicians of the town have not as a rule attained anything more than a local reputation. We have now and then, in the past, had residents who have had a national or state reputation, but they have obtained their notoriety elsewhere than among us. Of course it would be interesting to trace the history of the rise, progress and fall of the great parties as illustrated in the limits of our town, but time and space forbid. I remember the early formation of the Free Soil and later the coalition of the Free Soil and Democrats resulting in the election of Henry Robinson, a Free Soiler, to the Legislature which elected Charles Sumner to the United States Senate. He was a leader in his party and my father was in the Democratic party and I remember very well at a town meeting the succeeding year for the election of representatives, after several ineffectual ballots the Democrats and Free Soilers being divided, my father said, with a great deal of energy, "we will send Robinson again," and he was elected over William Flagg, the Whig candidate, my father being sent the next year to the Constitutional Convention.

The Know Nothing flurry was an incident in our politics, effective, ridiculous, but charged with great consequences. The oaths were administered in the loft of the old bowling alley that stood where the new line of the Boston and Albany is, just behind Mr. Calvin Smith's,<sup>1</sup> and many old Democrats and Whigs took their vows and followed the dicta of order and had their part in the revolution which brought into existence and power the Republican Party. This party during the war practically included the whole voting population, as at one election only two Democratic votes were cast in the town of Needham. There was an excitement when the attacks were made on McLellan in 1862 which culminated in Maugus Hall (later the Unitarian Church) and more nearly ending in a free fight than any meeting that was ever held here.

Probably, however, the liveliest purely political meeting ever

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

held in the town was a caucus in the old Town Hall for the selection of delegates to the Representative Convention to determine who should stand as the Republican candidate for 1881, the year division was petitioned from Needham. Every democrat in town was a republican that year for the Caucus, and every Wellesley republican was that same year, at the polls, a democrat, showing one of the most marked political transformations ever known. Later politics in the town are too well known to you and too gently indeterminate to develop much interest.

The present social advantages of our town are found in the correct morals, the courteous behavior, the refinement and culture of the inhabitants, the nearness to Boston, with all its advantages, the possessions of a fair share of wealth allowing many proper luxuries, and the activity and energy which enable our citizens to improve the many opportunities offered for social pleasures, and the ambition of our young people who give promise that there shall be no retrograde movement in their day and generation.

The Religious societies do not neglect their flocks socially, as the many fairs, entertainments and dances testify. The Guilds and Christian Endeavor Societies, exceedingly energetic, provide recreation as well as religion. The Lawn Tennis and Ball Clubs are deservedly popular and afford very delightful and useful occupation as well as attracting friends from outside. Dramatic and Musical Clubs are well sustained. The Chataquan and Woman's Suffrage Clubs, the Reading and Literary Clubs, general and special, the Card Clubs, the Farmers' and Mechanics' Organizations, afford enough opportunities to all classes, young or old, of whatever tastes, for entertainment and amusement of every variety. With all these the happy homes in a respectable community and agreeable neighbors offer the summit of comfort. To any able to receive it, one suggestion of a lack I will make. The acquaintance between Wellesley and the Hills is not as intimate, or as close, as it should, or as it might be. Several organizations include both villages and several families are intimately associated, but it belongs to this club, perhaps, to see that a closer social union is made possible and sometime perhaps the villages may be connected by an electric railway or some such thing.

<sup>1</sup> The house next to the Worcester Street bridge.

### WELLESLEY 1881-1906

*(Read at the Wellesley Club, April, 1906.)*

Twenty-five years in the lifetime of a State or Municipality is a very short time and yet great changes take place in a community in even that short space. When Wellesley was incorporated in April, 1881, it had a population of very nearly 2,600. By the census of 1905, it had 4,600, showing a larger percentage of increase than any other town of the State, excepting two: Easthampton and Norwood. The increase in its population was exceeded by only five towns in the State of less than 12,000 inhabitants.

## WELLESLEY, 1881-1906

The valuation of the town, May 1, 1881, was \$3,024,698. The valuation of the town, May 1, 1906, was \$13,941,165. The number of polls, May 1, 1881, was 577. The number of polls, May 1, 1906, was 1,290.

The number of pupils in the schools of the town shown by the first report was 331. By the report of 1906 (December), 920. Pupils in High School, 1881, 34; 1906, 129. Cost of Schools: First appropriation, \$7,943.64; in 1906, \$38,790.69. Number of teachers in the schools: 1881, 12; 1906, 43. Since 1881 the Hunnewell school-house has been replaced by a new building. One High School has been built and found inadequate and another is near completion. The Fiske School has been built, enlarged and fully occupied and the North School enlarged. It has been decided that a Union Grammar School shall be established as soon as the new High School building shall be occupied.

The college has more than doubled in the twenty-five years that have elapsed and of the many buildings only College Hall was in existence twenty-five years ago.

Dana Hall School, established in the fall of 1881—on the discontinuance of the preparatory department of the College, the Academy of the Assumption, Rock Ridge Hall and Mr. Benner's School for Boys all recent establishments, give the town the right to be called an educational center.

There has been a very steady growth of the town in buildings of a more or less public character, as witness the various dormitories and other buildings in the College grounds and vicinity, the Town Hall—the generous gift of Mr. Hunnewell—school buildings erected, the different business blocks at Wellesley and the Hills, also St. Andrew's church in Wellesley, and the Unitarian and Congregational church buildings in the Hills. Different residential sections have developed very attractively, as along Dover and Grove Streets in Wellesley, and Abbott Road, Belvedere, and Cliff Road, Wellesley Hills, and clusters of humbler homes on no less attractive sites, as on River Ridge, Newton Lower Falls and Garfield Farm, near the Boston and Worcester car station.

Very soon after the incorporation of the town steps were taken for the introducing of water, and the works were in operation in 1885, the cost of which up to date is about \$341,000.

A Telephone Exchange was established in Wellesley Hills in 1894 and now has 418 subscribers.

The character of the population, while not changed, has nevertheless shown large growth in the wealth of the citizens, while the number of college-bred men and women has increased by a much larger percentage than the population.

I have often thought I should like to show my father around the town, if he could return, and see his wonderment at the changes. In the house he would have running water, the electric light, the telephone to talk with friends next door or a hundred miles away. He steps out on the street and may take a car to Boston or Worcester,

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Needham or Dedham, with his choice of routes. He sees a non-descript carriage without visible propelling force, and is as eager as his children to get out of the way. He goes about the street and sees old pastures covered with fine lawns and buildings—a Town Hall, elegant of construction, a Library well-stored with books, school-houses and play-grounds and parks galore. He gets his cheek cashed on the bank if his credit is good. If he stays long enough to get a letter from the other side, it is brought to him, whether he is next door or at the extreme end of the town. Perhaps he would conclude not to go back.

Parks have sprung into existence, the one by Fuller's Brook for sanitary reasons, the Play-Ground, the gift of the Hunnewells, the extension of the Metropolitan Park system through the town, and the various smaller parks dotting the town here and there.

In 1899-1900, by order of the County Commissioners, Washington Street was widened in many places and by vote of the town was macadamized and drained along its whole length. Worcester Street also was later widened and rebuilt. The building of good roads by the Abbot Real Estate Company and by Mr. Clapp and others have been of great benefit to the town in developing land without public cost.

The town has shared with the rest of the world in improvements in transportation of goods and persons and facility of communication. In 1881 the only public conveyances to Boston, the workshop of most of our men, was over the Boston and Albany Railroad, but in 1896 the Natick and Cochituate began running, and in 1903, the Boston and Worcester, giving the inhabitants of Wellesley innumerable daily opportunities of reaching the city.

Of very important influence in social affairs have been the several clubs which have been organized within the time mentioned: notably, the Wellesley Hills Woman's Club, organized in 1894 with Mrs. Abby S. Fiske for first president, and now having about 260 members. The Wellesley Club was organized in 1889, with Col. Albert Clarke for first president and now has 100 members and a large waiting list. This club has many of the features of the Board of Trade in other municipalities, and has done much in ways of investigating propositions for improvements in town affairs, notably in railway fares, parks and the like. The Maugus Club organized in 1892 has a commodious Club House and 100 members.

## ACCOUNT OF THE DIVISION OF THE TOWN

*(Read at the Wellesley Club, Oct 15, 1906.)*

The Town of Needham was incorporated in 1711, and later was divided into the East and West Parishes. These never harmonized, and several attempts were made by the West Parish for separate incorporation, before the final successful one, notably in 1820. Also in 1852 and 1859, efforts were made for division.



## DIVISION OF TOWN

I remember my father told me that one of the attempts made in the 50's failed because old gray-headed Laurence Kingsbury appeared before the Committee of the Legislature, and excused his appearance as the people of the East Side were too poor to employ Council. I suppose the underlying motive was selfish on the part of the West, while the bonds of union were very slender. Of course, there was, at those times, more or less expression of discontent, especially when some measure, popular in the East, was thought unwise in the West, or some want expressed by the West was voted down by the East. And there was only required an initiative to enlist the interest and work of all the citizens of the West Side.

One day, in the first part of August, 1880 I met Mr. Joseph H. Dewing on the street, and he said, "When are you going to start the division movement?" And I said, "Let's call a meeting of a dozen people at my house next week and see if we get any encouragement to try it." The meeting was called, and the people invited responded. I cannot recall all the names, but there were present Messrs. F. H. Dewing, G. K. Daniell, Solomon Flagg, Albert Jennings, C. B. Dana, John Curtis, F. H. Stevens, E. O. Bullock, A. R. Clapp, I think, and a half a dozen others. There was no especial formality, but it was decided to call a general meeting. A call was issued, and very generally responded to on August 26, 1880.

The following is a copy of the Secretary's report of this and the following meeting:—

On Thursday evening, August 26, 1880, Meeting in Shaw Hall, Grantville, of Citizens in favor of the division of the Town. Over 200 present estimated. Meeting called to order by Joseph E. Fiske, and organized by choosing George K. Daniell as Chairman, and F. H. Stevens, Secretary.

After remarks on the object of the meeting by John W. Shaw and others, on motion of J. E. Fiske, it was unanimously voted that "it is the sense of this meeting that measures should be taken looking toward the division of the Town, and that the matter be followed up until accomplished." On motion of John W. Shaw, a committee of five was appointed by the Chair, to nominate a committee of ten from the West part of the Town, to fix upon a line for the division, and also to invite the other part of the Town to appoint a committee of conference, and if possible, get a proposition from them which would be mutually satisfactory.

The Chair appointed as a nominating committee, Solomon Flagg, Lewis Wight, Joseph E. Fiske, Albert Jennings, and John Curtis.

Mr. Fiske moved to appoint a committee of five to nominate a committee of twenty-five to take charge of the whole matter relating to the division of the Town, and it was debated while the nominating committee were out, and the motion of Mr. Pratt to lay on the table was defeated, and the nominating committee reported the names of the following gentlemen as a committee of ten: John W. Shaw, L. Allen Kingsbury, George Spring, Lewis Wight, Abel F. Stevens, Frank H. Stevens, John Curtis, Frank L. Fuller, C. B. Dana,



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

Freeman Phillips, and they were chosen by the committee. Mr. Spring declined to serve, and George White was chosen in his place, and F. H. Stevens also declined, and Augustus Fuller substituted.

The same nominating committee were authorized to nominate a committee of twenty-five under Mr. Fiske's motion, and A. R. Clapp was added to the committee, and on motion of Mr. Whipple, the committee were directed to report to an adjourned meeting.

The meeting then adjourned for one week, same time and place.

F. H. Stevens, Secretary.

"September 2, 1880, adjourned meeting of citizens in favor of division of the Town in Shaw Hall, Grantville.

On Thursday evening, September 2nd, at 7.30 o'clock, meeting called to order by the Chair, and the records of the last meeting read by the Secretary. The report of the Committee of Conference was submitted to the Chairman, John W. Shaw, and accepted. The nominating committee reported through J. E. Fiske, the list of names to serve as a committee of twenty-five. The report was accepted, and adopted by the meeting. Mr. Fiske moved that the committee have the power to fill vacancies, and Mr. Sanborn moved to have power to add any names they may think proper, and the motion as amended, was passed.

The meeting then adjourned, subject to the call of the committee.

F. H. Stevens, Secretary."

Report of the Committee of Conference:—

"The Committee appointed to confer with the East part of the Town in the matter of division of Needham, beg leave to report as follows:—

First, we called upon several of the leading men of that part. Among them was Emery Grover, Esq., who very kindly consented to make known our desire to some of his neighbors, and subsequently he proposed to meet us at Odd Fellows Hall last Tuesday evening. On going there, seven of our committee being present, we met quite a large number of gentlemen from that side, all of whom proved more or less opposed to the division of the Town on any terms. After discussing the matter at some length, all seemingly in a friendly way, their chairman intimated that further negotiation would, in his judgment result in a waste of time, as they on that side, were decidedly opposed to division.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

John W. Shaw, Chairman."

There was no general meeting afterwards, all the business having been given into the hands of the committee of twenty-five, and this was practically transferred to the Legislative Committee of five, consisting of Messrs. Fiske, Putney, A. H. Buck, to which was added Benjamin H. Sanborn and John W. Shaw. A committee on finance was appointed, and a treasurer.

## DIVISION OF TOWN

The Legislative Committee authorized Mr. Fiske to make a statement of the case, to be submitted to the members of the Legislature, which is hereby given as for the most part a comprehensive statement:—

“A petition will be presented to the Legislature of 1881, asking that a part of the Town of Needham be set off and incorporated as a new town by the name Wellesley.

The town of Needham is situated in Norfolk County, was incorporated in 1711, and comprises about 15,000 acres of land, of which 13,000 are taxed. The present population is 5,261, and the valuation as reported by the assessors is \$4,366,267. The town, under the old system, was divided into two parishes, the East and West, and the petitioners request that the West Parish shall have a separate town government.

The distinction between the two parishes has been recognized and taxes separately assessed until within a few years, and there has *never* been a harmonious union between the two parts of the town; but of late years especially the association has grown to be less and less tolerable.

We wish to call attention to some facts showing why a division is eminently wise and desirable. The inhabitants on the west side are unanimous in asking for incorporation. They have asked for it in the past, applying as long ago as 1820 to the Legislature, and have renewed their efforts from time to time for independence, and now without doubt will press until it is acquired. If the town should be divided upon the line referred to, the territory taken would comprise about three-sevenths of the area, and the population would be about equally divided. Along the division line, lying upon either side is a belt of territory about a mile and a quarter in width, with very few dwellings upon it, which separates the two parts as clearly as a mountain range or broad river. Within, or bordering upon this belt, are situated three large cemeteries, for a long distance the Sudbury-river conduit, and large expanse of swamp and forest. Within, too, is located the “Poor-House” and “Town-Hall,” all in one, where the paupers dwell and the voters transact the public business.

West of this uninhabited tract lie the villages of Lower Falls, Grantville, and Wellesley; easterly, Upper Falls, Highlandville, Needham and Charles River Village.

Through the first-named villages runs the Boston and Albany Railroad, with five stations within the limits of the town; through the latter the Woonsocket Division of the New York and New England Railroad, with four stations.

Upon the one side are two, upon the other three, Post Offices.

Upon the east side there is a Congregational Church, a Unitarian, a Methodist, Baptist, and just across the river a Catholic Church.

Upon the west two Congregational, a Unitarian, a Catholic, and just over the river a Methodist Church.

There are *two* High Schools, one on each side.

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

There are the usual societies for protection, cultivation, and amusement; but each side has distinct organizations. There are Public Libraries; but each village supports its own. It will be apparent at a glance that there is no natural or artificial connection between the two parts of the town.

The children never meet in the schools.

It is not feasible to unite the two High schools as half the scholars would be obliged to ride six to eight miles a day in carriages, at the best, in such case.

Not a family on the east attends church on the west; nor one on the west, the east.

No brother Mason, or Odd Fellow, or Good Templar, or Knight of Honor, crosses the line to greet his brother save as an infrequent visitor.

No one crosses the line for his mail, or groceries, or his literature, or his amusement, and the only place of meeting is in the woods, in the Poor-House, a mile or more from the nearest village, where men succeed in misunderstanding each other, and, through the ignorance of the needs of each section, wasting the money of the town.

The condition of Needham, if Wellesley should be incorporated, need not call for sympathy. The population of Needham, after division, will be about 2,600 (2,538); its valuation, about \$2,000,000 (1,750,000 close estimate).

By examination of the last State census returns, it appears that the town, after losing Wellesley, will have a larger population than two hundred and eighteen (218) towns out of 326 in the Commonwealth and a larger valuation than two hundred and twenty-three (223) towns. No hardship can be experienced on account of schools, as not a single scholar will be affected by the change, nor will any church, society, or social interest receive the slightest shock.

A possible objection may be urged on account of bridges; but a slight deflection in the line, affecting no dwelling, would include in Wellesley an additional wooden bridge; so that in Wellesley there would be three wooden bridges and one stone, and in Needham five substantial stone bridges, one iron, and two wooden.

There would perhaps be an excess of streets and roads in Needham, as there have been a large number of new and expensive roads lately built in that part of the town.

The result attained by granting the petition will be to create two towns in place of one. The one now without cohesion, full of misunderstanding and hard feeling, unmanageable in government, and extravagant in expenditure, will be replaced by two towns, compact, filled with people who come into contact with each other every day, and who will unite with each other in friendly effort to forward the interests of their communities.

The citizens of Wellesley are anxious to secure a town government, and believe, if they do so, they will in no way injure their neighbors of the other side of the town. They believe, if the town

## DIVISION OF TOWN

is incorporated, there will be a prosperous future in store for them.

The town of Wellesley will be about four miles long by two and three quarters broad, will contain about 2,600 inhabitants, will have a valuation of about \$2,500,000, four school-houses, eleven schools, two post-offices, five railroad stations, and will be a complete town in all respects with a homogeneous population and general agreement of interest.

Within the limits of the new town is Wellesley College, now so favorably known, and sure to grow year by year in usefulness and reputation.

Respectfully submitted,  
In behalf of the Petitioners."

The names of the committee of twenty-five are as follows:—George K. Daniell, Solomon Flagg, F. H. Stevens, Edwin O. Bullock, Benjamin H. Sanborn, Albion R. Clapp, Lewis Wight, Joseph E. Fiske, John W. Shaw, John Curtis, Albert Jennings, George White, Charles B. Dana, E. Howard Stanwood, Gamaliel Bradford, George Spring, F. J. Lake, A. H. Buck, Joseph H. Dewing, H. B. Scudder, L. Allen Kingsbury, Thomas Whipple, Daniel Warren, Edmund M. Wood, Abel F. Stevens, L. K. Putney.

### PETITIONS, ETC.

The committee on petitions worked effectively, and as a result of their efforts, all citizens signed with the exception as was stated, of seventeen, of whom ten were neutral, and only seven opposed division. Judge Josiah G. Abbott headed the formal petition, and was of great service from first to last with his advice and co-operation. The petition reads as follows:—

"We, the undersigned, voters and tax-payers of the town of Needham, respectfully request your honorable bodies to pass an act dividing said town of Needham, by setting off the west part thereof from the east, near the line of division which formerly separated the West Parish from the East, with such deviation from said line as will nearly equally divide the territory, as shall appear to your honorable bodies wise and expedient; and that you will incorporate the west part into a new town under the name of Wellesley for the following, among many, reasons:—

That there is no connection or intercourse between the east and west parts of said town, whether of business, or schools, or religious worship. That the west part of said town consists of the villages of Wellesley, Grantville and the Lower Falls, and all lie along the Boston and Albany Railroad. That the east part of said town consists of Needham, Highlandville, Charles River Village, and Upper Falls, and all lie along the Woonsocket Division of the New York and New England Railroad. That the children of the town attend exclusively the schools in their respective sections, there being a High School in the east part, and another in the west.

## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

That the town hall is removed from centres of all the villages in the town, and the performance of civic and public duties is rendered difficult, expensive and onerous to the great majority of voters in the town, and that there is no remedy for these evils so long as the town remains undivided."

### CAUCUS

In October, the Republican caucus for the selection of delegates to the convention for the nomination of representative to the general court was held, and while of no direct bearing upon the result, was of great value in exciting interest and developing antagonism between the two parts of the town; this being the only meeting in which both sides were brought together in public. Ostensibly this was a political party caucus; but actually, all voters of the town, on both sides of the town, Democratic and Republican, were present, together with what reinforcements the west could get from South Natick and Lower Falls, and the east from Upper Falls and Dover.

No local scrap, unless the McLellan riot in Maugus Hall, was livelier than this. I asked Mr. Hugh McLeod to get some fellows of his athletic build together and occupy the front seats in case the vote was not going right, or the other side became too violent, and he had his men in place all right.

The committee arranged to have Mr. Bradford as presiding officer, and E. A. Wood as Secretary, while I was to be floor manager. The delegation numbered seventeen, and all we asked for was eight; less than one-half. This the other side refused, but we were finally victorious; although as we feared, the other towns of the district nominated Mr. Grover a resident of Needham, and opposed to division. Mr. Henry Durant was present, and an excited participant in the meeting. There were many incidents of interest, among which was the announcement by Mr. Everett Eaton that when a vote was about to be taken, the hall way and stairs were filled with people who could not get in; when burly Tom Purcell pushed to the rear, and announced, "Mr. Chairman, there is not a damn man in the stair way!"

Reverend Mr. Edwards was asked (it was late Saturday evening) "If we do not leave till after midnight, will you stay?"

"My dear sir", said he, "I shall wait until a decision is necessary before I make one."

Reverend Mr. Cowan of Wellesley, formerly of Tennessee, when asked "Does this remind you of home?" said, "Really, my hand has been going involuntarily to my hip pocket repeatedly."

### LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS

The Committee of twenty-five appointed a Legislative Committee as heretofore given. Hearings began soon after the election in this way. The pamphlet prepared by me was submitted to the Committee of twenty-five, and 1,500 copies printed. These were dis-



## DIVISION OF TOWN

tributed to the citizens of the town to be used as a guide in the interviews with members of the Legislature. The members of the Legislature were assigned to the citizens who were acquainted with them, and the citizen was instructed to explain and vouch for the statements in the pamphlet, which was unsigned, but not anonymous, every person presenting a voucher for it. Then the list of members not familiar to any citizen was taken, and each one consigned to some one who knew some acquaintance who might be influential with the member, and thus almost every member was directly reached before the meeting of the general court, and we knew our case was won, unless the unexpected should happen.

The method thus adopted was new, but has been used since in many cases.

The next matter was to employ council, and Mr. Samuel A. B. Abbott was engaged, and by the advice of Judge Abbott, endorsed by the committee, Patrick Collins, since a member of Congress and Mayor of Boston, was secured. He was not only a good legislative lawyer, but a leading democratic politician; and what seemed to make him still more acceptable, he was a resident of South Boston, the district represented by Speaker Noyes;—really a democratic district.

As chairman of the legislative committee I was supposed to know all that was going on in the matter of committees on towns, and was informed of all applicants for a position on the committee by our council. They were then looked up, and if thought necessary, objected to. All I know about it is that no one who was objected to went on the list; nor did I know who were going on, and when the committee was finally appointed, the names were largely unfamiliar to me. The Committee of the Legislature consisted of Cook of Hampshire, Snow of the Cape District, Corbin of Worcester, on the part of the Senate; Morse of Newton, Jones of Chelsea, Willicut of Boston, Stowe of Hudson, Thompson of Medway, Moriarty of Worcester, Almy of Salem, Cowley of Lowell, on the part of the House. I was taken ill and was not present at any of the hearings. Mr. Putney was in charge for the Legislative Committee, and attended very ably to the business, as all interested testify. He came to see me, and seemed to be very timid about his ability to look after matters, and I told him he would do better than I could, and I think he proved my assertion true.

There were several hearings, and many witnesses were called on both sides. On the part of the west, Mr. Daniell, Flagg, Clapp, Shaw and others. On the part of the east, Mr. Tucker, Grover, Mackintosh, Whittaker and others. Mr. Whittaker insisted that if the town was divided there were no men on the east side competent to run the town, which of course was an absurd statement, and was repudiated by both councils.

A report was finally made by the committee to the House, signed by G. W. Morse, but dissented from by Senator Cook and Representative Jones. The bill, except the sixth section, which was



## HISTORY OF TOWN OF WELLESLEY

amended, was passed and signed by the Governor April 6th, 1881. A town meeting was held April 18th, 1881.

### FUNDS RAISED

The finance committee received subscriptions from the citizens, the list being headed by H. H. Hunnewell for \$900, Mr. Abbott and Mr. Durant with \$250 each, and several others with \$200. As I understand it, but 80 per cent. of the subscriptions were called for, and 6 per cent. returned to the subscribers, the total subscriptions amounting to something over \$4,000, and the expenditures about \$3,300; a fairly good showing, as the council fees were more than one-half the bill. Edwin O. Bullock was treasurer, succeeded by John Curtis, who closed the account.













LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 075 318 A ●